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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you support a proposal to grant a CNMI-only resident status to alien parents of U.S. citizen children in the Commonwealth?

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What Now?

What could the future hold for Casey Anthony when she gets out of jail?

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Facebook users will now be able to make video calls on the site.

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Last Potter

Daniel Radcliffe will miss being an action hero.

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Veteran prosecutor Gallagher also resigning. PAGE 6

$7M in rebates, refunds in Dec.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Some $7 million in tax rebate and refund checks are expected to be released by December in time for Christmas shopping, much later than the previous years' release dates of July or August as the government continues to struggle with finances.

» $5M to $6M in child tax credit checks out in September

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos said yesterday that while the release of refund and rebate checks would be delayed this year, the administration is firm on releasing some $5 million to $6 million in child tax credit checks in time for the school opening in September.

Some schools open as early as August.

"Right now we're still in data entry stage on the child tax credit," Inos told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview.

The federal child tax credit is available to taxpayers who have a child under the age of 17. It is worth up to $1,000 per "qualifying" child.

In general, a "qualifying" child is any individual for whom the taxpayer can claim a dependency exemption and who

See $7M on Page 4

TEACHING HISTORY

A Guam-based military officer explains to his children the significance of this now-enclosed bomb pit at Tinian's North Field last week. It was the launching pad for the atomic bomb codenamed "Little Boy" that was dropped on Hiroshima, Japan on Aug. 6, 1945, hastening the end of World War II. The second bomb, codenamed "Fat Man," was dropped three days later on Nagasaki.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Yangetmai couple files grievance vs Garrison

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

RELATED NEWS

- Garrison slams House education panel. PAGE 3

At the recommendation of the House Educational Committee, James Yangetmai and his wife Denita filed a grievance with the Office of the Education Commissioner yesterday, demanding the immediate ouster of Marianas High School principal Craig Garrison.

In a four-page letter to Education Commissioner Dr.

See YANGETMAI on Page 4

$57K expenses for LibDay fest

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The monthlong Liberation Day festivity that will conclude on Sunday has incurred expenses totaling $57,130, according to organizers yesterday.

Terri Camacho, fiscal and budget officer of the Saipan Mayor's Office, said the amount is a considerable drop from the $136,000 spent last year for the same celebration.

Camacho said the biggest expense was the building of tents for concessionaires costing $12,960, followed by the raffle prizes, which totaled $10,500.

The Liberation Day committee also spent $8,100 for the entertainers' fee and $7,900 for the one-month use of the sound system.

Before and during the festivities, food coupons were issued to volunteers, guests, and staff, totaling $5,000, while the committee spent $3,750 for the portable toilets and $3,300 to deco-

See LIBDAY on Page 4

Local

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'Rota lawmakers did not allocate fund for nurses' salaries'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

While the fiscal year 2011 budget law appropriated $6.256 million for Rota, the four-member Rota Legislative Delegation did not reallocate within the municipality's appropriation level funds for the Rota Health Center that would have been used to pay for some of the nurses' salaries.

Section 705(c) of Public Law 17-21—the fiscal year 2011 budget law—appropriated $340,000 from Rota's budget to pay for professional services for nurses, technicians, and other medical and auxiliary professionals as needed, including one mental health counselor for $33,000.

Shortly after Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed PL 17-21, the Rota Legislative Delegation adopted a resolution allocating funds appropriated for Rota by the CNMI budget law.

But the resolution did not include the following: Section 705(c) for the Rota Health Center amounting to $373,000; Section 705(d) for the Department of Public Safety's cadets amounting to $107,780; and Section 705(e) for the hiring of a dentist amounting to $77,200.

Vicky Villagomez, special assistant for management and budget, wrote to Rota Legislative Delegation chair Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota) on Oct. 25 to point this out. Villagomez wanted to seek clarification from the Rota delegation if this was overlooked.

But Sen. Ayuyu, in his response a day later, said Rota Legislative Delegation Resolution 17-12 stipulated the three provisions listed in PL 17-21 but did not allocate the same provisions in the appropriations for Rota.

"This is because the current appropriation of the First Senatorial District is insufficient to fund the provisions of Section 705(c) to (e) of Public Law 17-21 due to the significant budget cut by the House of Representatives," the senator told Villagomez.

But Ayuyu said the Legislature intends to fund these provisions when supplemental funding is available for appropriation.

"Therefore, please set aside the said provisions at this time. Accordingly, please follow the allocation of funds appropriated to the First Senatorial District pursuant to RLD Resolution No. 17-12," Ayuyu told Villagomez.

Copies of these letters from Villagomez and Ayuyu were obtained only yesterday.

Because of this, no money was allocated to help pay for the Rota Health Center nurses hired from the private manpower firm, Saipan Employment Agency and Services.

Sen. Ayuyu, when asked to comment yesterday, said the delegation will have an emergency meeting today to tackle the unpaid salaries of SEAS nurses at the Rota Health Center.

Ayuyu earlier said the delegation would like to know whether funds that should have been appropriated for the Rota Health Center for it to be able to pay the SEAS nurses were reprogrammed for other purposes.

But Rota Health Center resident director Crispin M. Ayuyu said yesterday, "knowing full well that the Rota Legislative Delegation did not allocate funds for the above cited sections, reprogramming from the unallocated funds is zero."

"Worst yet, one cannot reprogram fund from a non-existing account with zero amount to any other account," Crispin Ayuyu said.

He said he wanted to "clear up any frivolous attempt to investigate and audit the status of alleged allocation of fund," adding that what he needs to be audited are three of Rota Health Center's specific accounts for fiscal year 2011.

These include accounts 1912, 1957, and 1989, which were for Public Health, Environmental Health, and Dental Health.

He also said this in a July 5 letter to Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson.

Larson, in a separate interview yesterday, said Finance is looking into the matter.

RHC director Ayuyu also said yesterday that his June 15 letter to Rota Mayor Melchor Mendiola has not been answered as of yesterday.

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Garrison slams House committee

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Marianas High School principal Craig Garrison slammed members of the House Education Committee for entertaining what he describes as "outlandish and frivolous accusations" lodged by a few individuals, which contradicts the committee's statement that it is responding to the concerns of many.

Garrison

"It was clear that it was responding to nothing more than a letter by James [Yangetmai] and one which was fabricated with lies. It's shameful. If the committee was really interested in the truth it would have been better served to simply pick up the phone or stop by for clarification," said Garrison in his 19-page rebuttal testimony to the education panel Wednesday.

He said if the committee is truly concerned to get to the bottom for the true picture, members could have talked to many staff and students by walking the halls of MHS.

"…But I guess that's not what you really wanted. You'd rather subject to succumbing to lies and innuendo of family and disgruntled teachers. Again, its unfortunate. There are a million other stories which for the most part fall under the heading 'gossip' as seemingly all of this does, which I don't have the time to share," the principal told lawmakers in his letter.

Garrison said he has done nothing more than aggressively try to fix a school that was broken, where teachers had a long history of abusing the system and its students, where the staff had a long history of taking anything that wasn't nailed down and not coming to work, where no one gave a damn about the students or the environment that students had to work in.

"The fact that this job was dumped on me with 32-hour notice and that I was still able to achieve an insurmountable amount of progress and success not only with test scores but with school climate and the facilities all within a single year is a testimony in itself. And if a few teachers get pissed off along the way, so be it, they probably weren't teachers in the first place," added Garrison.

He said he was truly disappointed in the conduct of Yangetmai and other teachers who keep raising unfounded accusations against him.

Other revelations

One of Garrison's comments in his testimony was his alleged changing of students' grades, which he denied, saying the true story was never presented.

He pointed out that one of his teachers, whom he said had 51 days of absences out of 180 instructional days, gave a failing grade to 102 of 107 students—almost covering four classes.

"I did not ask the teacher to change the grades…what I was telling the teacher is there's something wrong in what he's doing and he needs to make some changes [in his teaching methods]," explained Garrison, adding that he decided to transfer the students to other classes after this teacher asked for a two-week leave.

Garrison also revealed that one of those who testified in the previous hearing defended MHS employees who allegedly stole school property because he was a member of the family.

The principal also revealed that another teacher who testified against him had been allegedly caught watching porn video on campus and has a bad history in other schools.

"I have always expressed my desire to see that people like these are removed from our public schools permanently," added Garrison.

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Republican Party to elect new officers today

» Fitial's 'merger' committee plans to turn over applications
» Tenorio said Fitial can't be elected president

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Republican Party of the NMI president Juan I. Tenorio won't seek re-election in tonight's election of officers, wherein members of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's committee pushing to eventually "merge" the Republican and Covenant Parties are expected to turn in application forms to also join the GOP.

Tenorio, who served two years as party president, said Fitial cannot be nominated and elected president because the Republican bylaws prohibit a sitting elected official to be president of the party.

Fitial is currently in Japan, and on his way to San Francisco, California before heading to Washington, D.C. and then Utah.

Former speaker Oscar Rasa, chairman of Fitial's so-called Blue Ribbon Committee, said last night they will be turning over application forms for membership into the Republican Party. He declined to comment further.

Rasa earlier said there are over 1,000 filled out application forms ready to be turned over to the Republican Party.

Tenorio said even if there are submissions of application forms, these individuals cannot participate in the voting process because their applications have yet to be reviewed and accepted.

He tasked former Public Works secretary Juan Reyes to oversee the party's membership recruitment.

Tenorio said after tonight's election of officers, he will not get involved in politics anymore.

"I'm done with politics," he told *Saipan Tribune.*

He said he will devote his time to the Saipan Little League, which he led as president a few years back.

"I already told former governor Juan N. Babauta and Governor Fitial about it. I am just going to be dedicating my time to the 40 kids in the Little League," he added.

House minority leader Diego Benavente (R-Saipan), whose resignation as a lawmaker takes effect on July 16, said he will not be seeking election as Republican party president at this time.

"It's something I want to do in the future, but not now," the former lieutenant governor and speaker said.

Benavente added that he didn't even know that there's a general membership meeting tonight.

The Republican Party's general membership meeting tonight will start at 6pm at the Garapan Central Park.

Federal court temporarily stops another deportation

» Petitioner says he was cheated of $50,000 investment

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The federal court temporary blocked another deportation, this time of a Chinese national who claimed he was cheated out of his more than $50,000 investment in the CNMI.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David A. Wiseman on Wednesday ordered that Fu Chen's removal from the CNMI be stayed pending court order.

Wiseman issued the order after Stephen C. Woodruff, counsel for Chen, filed a petition for habeas corpus in connection with his detention pending removal.

Chen named as respondents in his petition the Department of Homeland Security, DHS Enforcement and Removal Operations supervisor Beth Limrick, and Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

According to Woodruff in the petition, Chen entered the CNMI lawfully and held a long-term business entry permit at least until Dec. 10, 1998. The petitioner invested more than $50,000 in the CNMI but was ultimately cheated out of his investment by a local man, Woodruff said.

Chen pursued legal remedies but had difficulty doing so and it is his understanding that the local man passed away before he could realize any recovery of his investment.

Chen had borrowed the money in China and fears imprisonment if he returns without repaying it.

On Dec. 21, 2009, Chen went to the USCIS Application Support Center in Garapan to seek help with his problem.

USCIS, Woodruff said, did not consider Chen for any form of discretionary relief such as humanitarian or public interest parole pursuant to the Immigration and Nationality Act. Instead, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services advised Chen to go see ICE in Puerto Rico, Saipan. Chen did so and that's when DHS initiated removal proceedings against him.

Woodruff said that, on April 8, 2011, the immigration judge directed Chen to be removed.

This, Woodruff said, despite the fact that his client was placed in removal proceedings only 24 days after the advent of federal immigration control in the CNMI.

The immigration judge denied Chen's motion to stop his deportation.

Chen's situation, the lawyer said, is precisely the kind of case that "screams for an exercise of discretion," yet DHS and immigration judge refused to even engage in an exercise of discretion.

On Tuesday, Wiseman also temporarily stopped the deportation of Mariano Angel Shiano, a citizen of the Federated States of Micronesia who is a habitual offender. Shiano filed the same petition.

Jehovah's Witnesses begins 3-day convention

Jehovah's Witnesses in the Commonwealth will be holding a three-day convention that starts this morning, July 8, at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The 2011 "Let God's Kingdom Come!" District Convention promises a clear and refreshing approach to the topic about the coming of God's Kingdom. It focuses on the Kingdom mentioned in the model prayer recorded at Matthew 6:9, 10. Throughout the years, Jehovah's Witnesses have held conventions focusing on God's Kingdom government.

To Jehovah's Witnesses, the Kingdom is a real government that will soon take action in favor of those subjecting themselves to it and against those who refuse. At this year's convention, the Witnesses will feature an explanation of intriguing Bible prophecies related to God's Kingdom and how the Kingdom will bring permanent changes and blessings for those who love what is right.

Jehovah's Witnesses invite everyone to attend and learn more about these topics. All three days of the convention, the program sessions begin at 9:20am. Admission is free. Conventions of Jehovah's Witnesses are supported entirely by voluntary donations. ***(PR)***

YANGETMAI

From Page 1

Rita A. Sablan, the couple enumerated several wrongdoings that Garrison allegedly committed, including assault and public humiliation, abuse of power, damaging school property, defamation, and threats to job security, among others.

In her Wednesday testimony to the House education committee, Sablan said that no action was taken on Yangetmai's allegations because he had not filed a formal complaint with her office.

When asked for comment, Garrison said it's about time that Yangetmai follow the rules and processes of PSS. He declined to comment on the specific allegations. ***(See related news on Page 3)***

James Yangetmai admitted to being hesitant about filing the grievance because several allegations do not directly involve him or his wife.

"Although I had been advised to file a grievance on these allegations, I was really reluctant to do so as many of the allegations do not directly affect me personally, but rather are concerns of my fellow colleagues who are afraid of speaking up because they do not want to lose their jobs," said Yangetmai.

He claimed that many of the affected persons are now fearful after experiencing alleged retaliatory actions for participating in a four-day protest in April. He said these MHS employees were demoted to substitute teachers.

"I am sure more fear will be instilled in many of them when they will find out that I have been removed from Marianas High School," said Yangetmai.

In his grievance complaint, Yangetmai cited 15 allegations against Garrison, of which he said only four directly involves himself and his wife. These include alleged assault and public humiliation when Garrison accused him of allowing his students to chew betel nut in the classroom.

He also alleged that Garrison abused his power when he demoted Yangetmai to substitute teacher after the protest and reassigned his wife to another school. Yangetmai alleged that he was also "released" from MHS on June 17 without a 90-day notice.

The principal was also accused of removing Yangetmai's personal items from his cabinet and of alleging that Yangetmai had misused funds of the MHS Future Business Leaders of America Club.

Yangetmai also included in his grievance "complaints" of other teachers who had testified against Garrison at the previous House committee hearing.

"We strongly believe that Garrison's removal of highly qualified teachers from MHS is another clear example of his abuse of his discretionary power. Knowing that teachers lack the protection that all civil service employees of the government have here in the Marianas, he decided to abuse his authority to release these teachers without any justifiable causes," said Yangetmai.

Garrison was also accused of using vulgar and foul languages in the presence of staff and students, demanding that English be the only language of communication on campus, donning military fatigues to instill fear, removal of landmark water tanks, and cutting down trees on campus.

LIBDAY

From Page 1

rate both the stage and the royal court's float.

Camacho said that $2,500 was allocated for all other construction activities such as building the stage, while $1,200 was spent for the printing of Liberation Day materials. Security expenses totaled $1,920.

The committee also expects to see a significant power bill for the month-long activity.

Festival revenue

Revenue from the festival is projected to reach $22,500, Camacho said, with $13,000 coming from food and non-food concessionaires' fee and $9,500 from the Liberation Day candidates' ticket sales.

There were only over 20 concessionaires in this year's celebration. Food vendors paid $600 to rent stalls, while non-food stores shelled out $650.

Camacho said the three Liberation Day Queen candidates made ticket sales of $11,880—20 percent of which were turned over to the candidates.

Decline

This year's estimated revenue is a remarkable decline from the more than $140,000 earned last year.

Camacho said the decline was a result of the minimal participation of concessionaires. The 2010 edition of the festival featured 40 concessionaires.

Despite lowering the fee for vendors this year, this did not encourage more concessionaires, Camacho said

Ticket sales of Liberation Queen candidates also showed a significant decline because only three candidates joined the popularity contest this year, compared to nine in 2010.

Reprogramming of funds

In the absence of actual funding from the appropriation law, the committee used the revenue it collected from stores and candidates to pay for its vendors and other obligations, Camacho told *Saipan Tribune*.

Saipan Local Law 17-9 had appropriated $45,000 for the Liberation Day festival, but it could only be provided once funding becomes available and upon satisfying first the budget for the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance, amounting to $3 million.

Camacho disclosed that Mayor Donald Flores was allowed by the Executive Branch to temporarily use and reprogram a portion of its operations budget for the municipality to cover the Liberation Day expenses.

The committee would reimburse this reprogrammed funding once the $45,000 is made available by the Department of Finance.

$7M

From Page 1

is the taxpayer's son or daughter, stepson or stepdaughter, brother or sister, or eligible foster child.

"The reason why we're [releasing] the child tax credit is because it's federally funded and number two, schools are going to be opening. Usually these are sources of funds," he said.

A mother of two from Navy Hill said yesterday that her family looks forward to their child tax credit check, which she expects to be some $800.

"We usually use it to pay for book fees for my children. The total book fee is about $650," the mother said.

Inos, who oversees government finances, said the rebate and refund checks will be issued months later this year because there's still not enough in the trust account.

The administration has been prioritizing payroll at a time when it is implementing 16-hour work cuts per pay period and unpaid holidays.

Payroll for non-critical employees are oftentimes delayed since June 2010 as collections come in trickles amid low tourist arrivals and an overall slow economy.

Last year, the Fitial administration mailed out some 10,000 refund checks totaling $6.4 million on July 12, and some $5 million in rebate checks followed days later.

Inos also said that the $7 million in expected checks this year is lower than in previous years because of a reduction in the number of taxpayers as the economy shrinks.

A taxpayer inquired whether the federal stimulus fund called the "Making Work Pay" credit of up to $400 would be included in the rebate or refund checks.

She said this is federally funded so it should be released as soon as the CNMI government receives funding from the federal government, and not wait for the rebate and refund checks' release in December.

A refund is for tax that has been overpaid or incorrectly paid, and is returned to the taxpayer.

It is different from the rebate, which is for tax properly paid and is subsequently returned to the taxpayer under a rebate provision.

'FBI remains committed to probe of Luhk sisters' disappearance'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The FBI remains committed to investigating the mysterious disappearance of sisters Faloma and Maleina Luhk, according to FBI special agent Tom Simon yesterday.

Acting press secretary Teresa Kim told *Saipan Tribune* that the search for 10-year-old Faloma and 9-year-old Maleina Luhk at some sewer manholes and cliff lines continues as reported on Wednesday.

"No new developments today," Kim said.

When asked why FBI special agents have stopped joining the Department of Public Safety's search teams, Simon said the partnership between the FBI and DPS remains as strong as ever.

"As long as there are leads to be covered, we will be there with the police, side-by-side working toward a resolution of this disturbing case," said the Honolulu-based special agent in an email.

Simon said the FBI continues to work closely with the police to handle the traditional investigative tasks of interviewing witnesses, developing confidential sources in the community, and analyzing potential evidence.

With the exception of the Marpi landfill and tracking dog Pohaku searches, he said the police have taken the lead on searches of the island.

"Because of their intimate knowledge of the island's topography, they are the logical leaders for that aspect of the investigation," said Simon, who is also the FBI Honolulu's media relations coordinator.

The Luhk sisters were reportedly last seen near a school bus stop pavilion in As Teo on May 25. A $50,000 cash reward has been put up for information on the girls' whereabouts.

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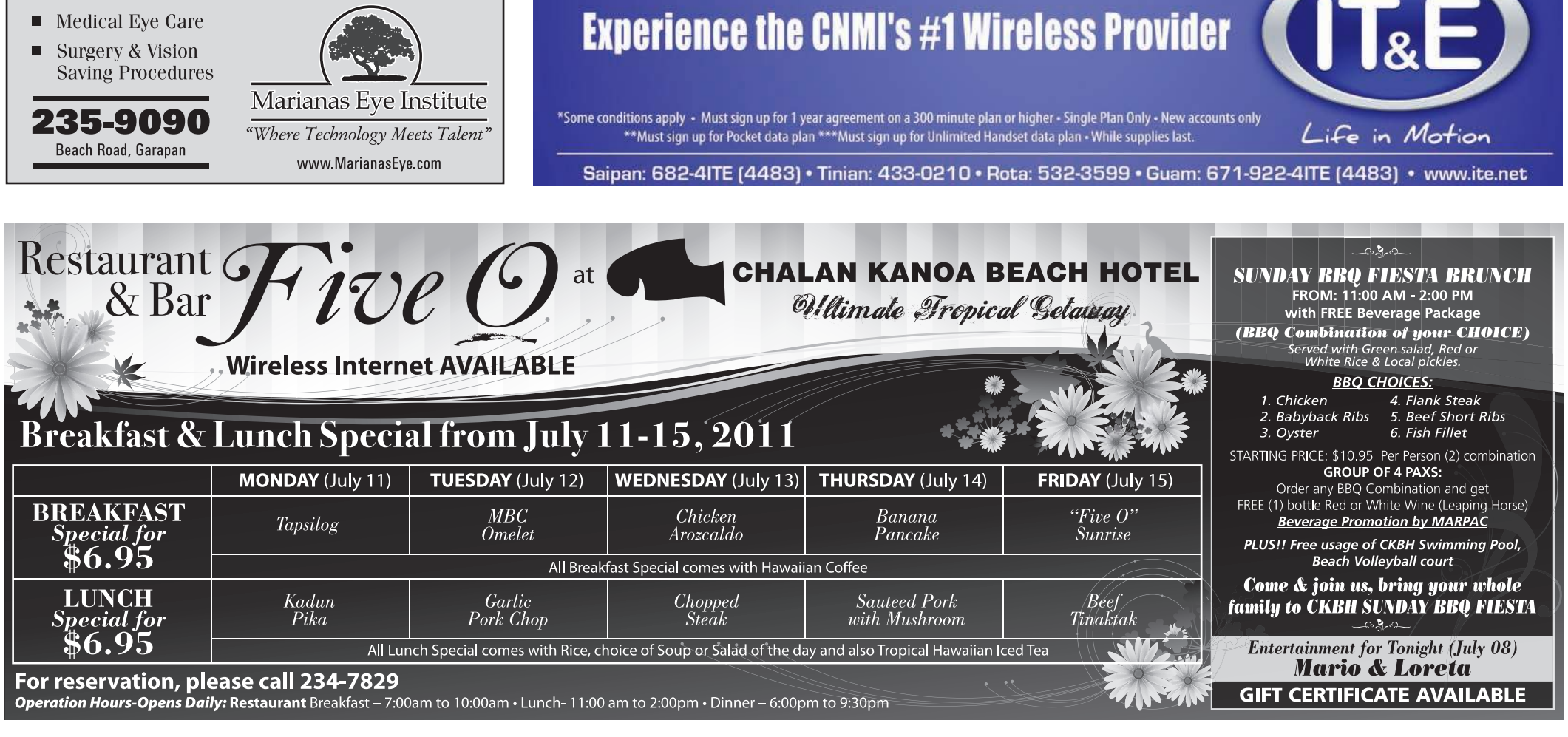
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Boy, 9, calls police as drunk parents argue

A 9-year-old boy finally had it with his parents being repeatedly drunk and arguing, calling the police to their residence in Koblerville Tuesday night.

Faustino Ponciano Litulumar, 22, and Gina Somorang Bhagchandani, 37, were arrested for child neglect. Bail was set at $2,250 cash each. Preliminary hearing will be on July 12 at 1:30pm.

Detective Catherine B. Pangelinan stated in her report that a boy called the Department of Public Safety on Tuesday at 10:06pm to report that his parents were arguing.

It was the third call that night relating to the same incident. The prior calls were classified as disturbing the peace and later disregarded by a responding police officer.

Pangelinan said that when the officers who responded to the third call arrived at the house, a neighbor pointed the officers to a car parked in a nearby basketball court.

The officers came upon Bhagchandani, who was sitting in the rear passenger seat with her child and the 9-year-old boy who called the police. One officer saw several empty beer cans scattered on the concrete slab around the vehicle.

When the officer asked what happened, Bhagchandani, who admitted consuming eight cans of beer, stated that she had an argument with her boyfriend, Litulumar. Bhagchandani said she and Litulumar started drinking since that afternoon after she picked up her food stamp.

The officer proceeded to the house where he asked Litulumar to come out. The officer noticed more empty beer cans and Soju bottles all over the floor of the house.

Litulumar at first threatened to hang himself if the officer doesn't leave the house. He later came out, but couldn't stand straight without holding on to something to keep his balance.

The officer learned that Bhagchandani, Litulumar, and his mother were all under the influence of alcohol.

The officer noted that there were children in the area that were unattended and neglected because both parents were drunk.

The parents repeatedly argued, prompting the neighbor as well as their own 9-year-old son to call 911 for police assistance.

After the couple were arrested, the two children ages 9 and 3 were released to the Division of Youth Services. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Veteran prosecutor Gallagher is also resigning from OAG

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Veteran prosecutor Brian Gallagher is also resigning from the Office of the Attorney General's Criminal Division.

Assistant attorney general Gallagher confirmed that he orally notified Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham yesterday about his resignation.

Gallagher said his resignation will take effect in a couple of weeks. He will be joining Guam's Office of the Attorney General's Criminal Division.

He declined to comment when asked if that's the only reason for his resignation.

"I love working for the people of the CNMI," he added.

Gallagher specifically cited former chief prosecutor Kevin Lynch as "one of the finest public servants" he ever worked for.

He said former chief prosecutor George Hasselback was also an outstanding public servant and a good leader.

Gallagher

Current chief prosecutor Michael Ernest, Gallagher said, "has done some really good work."

"We did some good work here. It's a pleasure to be part of some of that good work that was done," he said.

Gallagher joined the OAG's Criminal Division in April 2009. In more than a year after joining the OAG as a prosecutor, he won all jury and bench trials in the cases he handled on Saipan. In that same period, he failed to win convictions in only two cases, both of which were trials on Tinian.

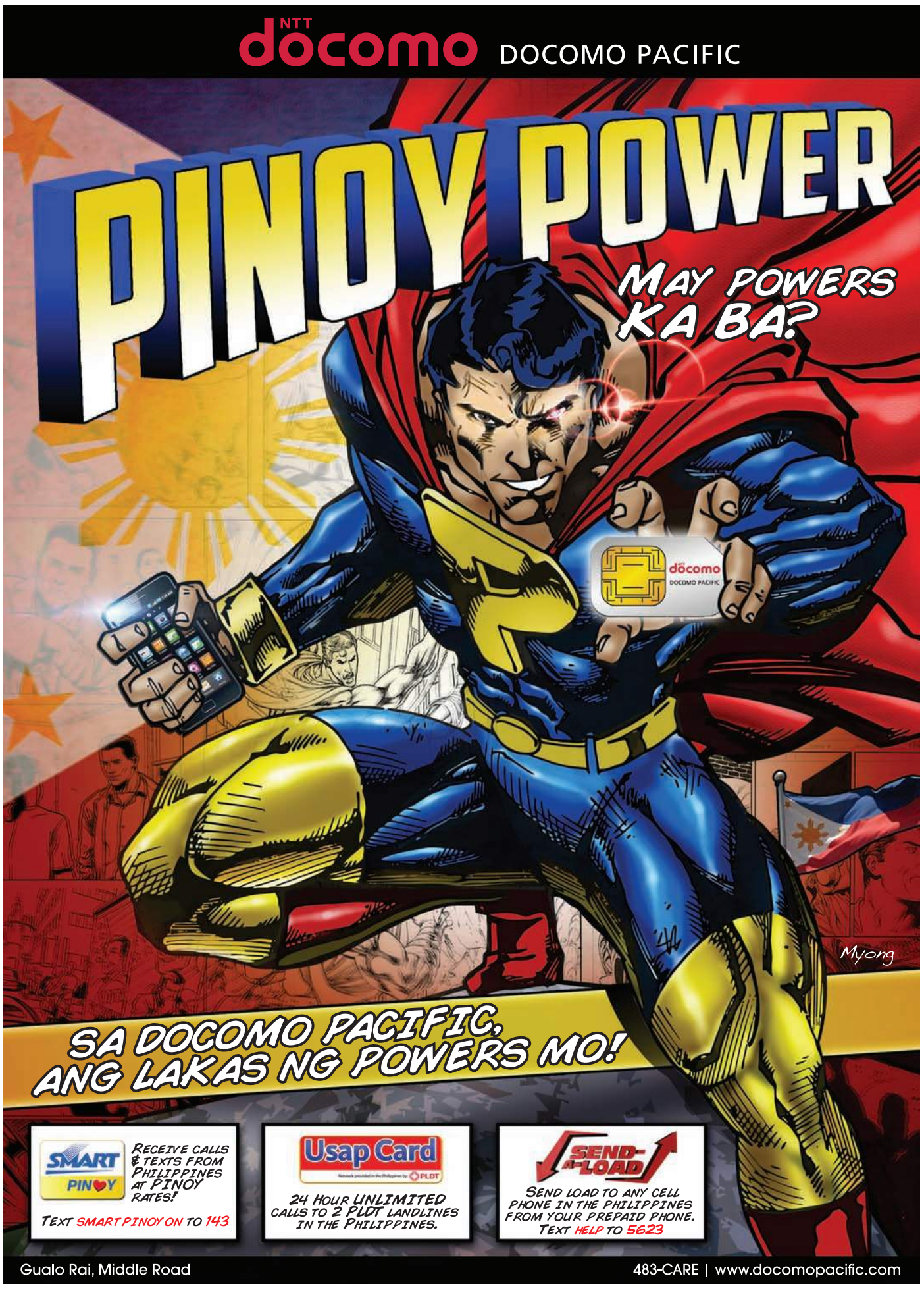
Before coming to the CNMI in 2009, Gallagher was an attorney for the Rutgers University Juvenile Justice Clinic. Prior to that, he also worked for many years as a jury trial prosecutor in Camden, New Jersey.

In February 2011, Buckingham named Gallagher as chief of OAG's Civil Division. Last April, Buckingham replaced Gallagher with Gilbert Birnbrich as chief of OAG's Civil Division and assigned him back to the Criminal Division.

Sources at OAG disclosed that Gallagher and Buckingham "are not doing well together."

Gallagher will be the 14th assistant attorney general to leave the OAG during Buckingham's term as attorney general.

Assistant attorneys general Meaghan Hassel-Shearer and Benjamin Petersburg are also leaving OAG this month and August, respectively.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TO SUSTAIN OPERATIONS UNTIL SEPTEMBER

Saipan Mayor's Office resorts to multitasking, cost-cutting

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Mayor's Office is enforcing a multi-tasking policy for all its employees so it could sustain the municipality's operations until the end of fiscal year in September.

From the previous 64 personnel assigned at the mayor's office, only 34 employees are now left to work for Mayor Donald Flores, who took over from Juan B. Tudela in 2009.

Despite the significant cuts in personnel, Fiscal and budget officer Terri Camacho said the office has managed to retain all its programs and community projects. Multi-tasking and volunteerism, she said, is key to the continuous survival of these programs.

She disclosed that the mayor's office has been allocated a minimal budget of just over $900,000 for fiscal year 2011. Of that amount, over $800,000 is allocated for personnel wages; only about $125,000 is left for the municipality's operations.

The meager allocation even went down in the middle of the fiscal year when the administration implemented a 7.6 percent across-the-board cut in all agencies' budget starting in April 2011. Camacho said this meant a reduction of about $90,000 from the mayor's office allotments until the end of the fiscal year.

She said that constant meetings with staffers also help the municipality survive because employees are made to understand the situation.

Camacho, who also helps with some clerical and administrative work for the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance, said all employees are doing more than their share of work, free of charge.

SHEFA is a scholarship program administered by the Saipan Mayor's Office. Because of budget constraint, its administrator, Henry Hofschneider, is also being paid under the mayor's office personnel account.

Camacho expects a more challenging year for the municipality starting October this year. The CNMI government projects revenue to reach just $102 million in fiscal year 2012.

Aside from freeze hiring, travel bans, and multi-tasking, the municipality is also enforcing other aggressive cost-cutting measures such as minimizing gas expenses and office supplies. It also conducts regular maintenance of its vehicles and other property to save on rental expenses such as heavy equipment.

Since Flores assumed office, Camacho said the municipality also eliminated the hiring of in-house counsel and consultants. The office taps legal services on a case-by-case basis.

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In support of our service members, veterans, and families.
Everybody is invited!
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Please bring your umbrella!

Kilili introduces bill to up federal funding for PSS

NMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan introduced yesterday legislation that would sharply increase the Title I grant money the Public School System gets from the federal government each year. The U.S. Department of Education announced the grant for school year 2011-12 last week and PSS will be receiving $3.7 million. Sablan expects his bill to double that in the future.

"PSS is highly dependent on federal grants to provide our children with the education they deserve," he said. "So, we have to keep working to increase the funding our schools receive, if we want our students to be well prepared for the competitive and complex world we are living in."

Title I grants are the largest source of federal educational assistance to school systems with significant populations of children from low-income families. The funds help schools meet the standards set up in the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, keep facilities in good condition, and pay teachers and staff.

"An increase in Title I funding has been a goal for the members of the Board of Education, Commissioner Sablan and her staff, and myself from the beginning," Sablan said. "Now, as we get closer to a possible rewrite of No Child Left Behind, it is important to stake a claim to higher funding. It will not be easy in the current fiscal environment. Money is scarce. Competition is intense. But our children—and their future well-being—that's worth fighting for."

Title I funding is allocated among the 50 states, DC, and Puerto Rico based on each jurisdiction's share of children ages 5-17 living under U.S. poverty levels.Funding for the Northern Marianas, American Samoa, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands and Bureau of Indian Affairs schools, on the other hand, is reserved in a "set-aside" of 1 percent of total Title I funding. The insular areas usually get a fourth of that.

The set-aside was originally intended to ensure that each insular area and the BIA schools received enough to provide a meaningful program and to protect them from competition with large state populations. Over time, however, the value of the set-aside has eroded.

Sablan's bill will increase the Title I set-aside to 1.25 percent, with the insular areas receiving most of the increase.

Sablan was joined in his legislation by the delegates of Guam, American Samoa, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, all of which would also get more funding under Sablan's bill. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 8, 1999

CRM to conduct study of CNMI's marine life

An Ecosystem Management Plan for Saipan Lagoon will be conducted to determine the different types of marine life and recommend the necessary conservation measures. Coastal Resources Management Acting Director Martin Castro yesterday said the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer will help conduct the study which has been given federal funding. It is the first time that an Ecosystem Study will be undertaken by CRM. A master plan on Saipan Lagoon has earlier been made by Duenas and Associates, Inc., in association with Dr. Steven S. Amesbury, a marine biologist which recommended ways on how to eliminate pollution specifically the contamination made by the dump site.

SGMA presents documentary to counter attacks vs CNMI

Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association executive director Richard Pierce yesterday presented before the Saipan Chamber of Commerce the 19-minute video documentary that depicted the real conditions prevailing in the garment factories in the Northern Marianas. Bishop Tomas Camacho, House Speaker Diego T. Benavente, Labor and Immigration Secretary Mark Zachares, Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Kerry M. Deets, Hyatt Regency Hotel general manager Mustafa Issa, David Burger, director of Burger & Comer, P.C., local resident managers and nonresident workers in the garment industry were featured in the documentary distributed to various media organizations in the U.S. mainland.

July 8, 2002

DPW wants PCB-treated soil to cover dumpsite

The Department of Public Works wants to immediately begin with using treated soil from the PCB-treatment site in Tanapag to cover the Puerto Rico dumpsite. Public Works Secretary Juan S. Reyes said the demand for soil to cover the dumpsite is even much greater than the supply that treated soil can generate. Reyes said this would allow the department to cut costs, as the Babauta administration has yet to meet the financial mechanism requirement to finally close the dumpsite. The secretary issued the statement after learning of the opinion of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, through its PCB treatment site coordinator Michelle Rogow.

'Senate rule contradicts Open Govt Act'

Sen. David M. Cing has questioned the recent adoption of the Official Rules of the Senate, saying a provision there directly contradicts the intent and meaning of the Open Government Act. Cing said that Rule No. 8 of the Official Rules of the Senate provides that no official journals, records, or tapes of Senate proceedings can be made available without the express consent and permission of the leadership. "That means any minority member cannot just go to the Legislative Bureau and access these public documents without seeking the approval of the leadership. That directly opposes the meaning and the intent of the Open Government Act, which is a law," said Cing on Friday. The upper chamber adopted the Senate Rules during a special session on Wednesday last week.

July 8, 2003

Judge denies TRO petition in land dispute

Ruling that a temporary restraining order or preliminary injunction is properly issued when the one requesting it would suffer irreparable harm, the Superior Court yesterday denied the request of a businessman for such legal relief, in connection with a land dispute. Associate Judge David Wiseman said Wan Jin Yoon, who has filed a counterclaim against the Saipan Achugao Resort Members' Association, was not entitled to a TRO or injunction because the damage that he seeks to prevent is quantifiable and, thus, not irreparable. The association had first sued Yoon in the civil action. Yoon, as counter-plaintiff, filed with the court a motion for the issuance of the TRO and preliminary injunction.

CUC in-house probe ends

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s in-house investigation on its alleged violations of water regulations is now dead after the CUC board took over the responsibility of handling the probe. "It ceased. It has to stop because the board has taken over the investigation," said board member Joseph Torres. CUC executive director Lorraine A. Babauta earlier formed an in-house team to look at the alleged violations of the CUC laboratory, which is managed by her husband, Pete Babauta. The task force, composed of two CUC legal counsels and the assistant laboratory manager, was tasked to get input from the lab manager during the investigation.

Red Cross urges people to prepare for typhoon season

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Learn traditional Carolinian song and dance

The Inetnon Amot yan Kutturan Natibu/Mwiischil Safey me Kkoor Aramasal Faluw is offering free classes on traditional Carolinian song and dance to all interested Chamorros and Carolinians on Saturday, July 9, 2011.

Classes start at 9:30am and end around noontime. Classes are offered at the Saipan Chamorro-Carolinian Village Cultural Centers Headquarters at 1213 Capitol Hill Rd., which is across from the CNMI Workforce Investment Agency and next to the CNMI Board of Parole Office. The classes are offered by the Association of Native Medicine and Culture, in partnership with the Indigenous Affairs Office. For more information, call 322-0278. ***(PR)***

Tinian scholarship board meeting

The Tinian Municipal Scholarship board will be having a meeting on Tuesday, July 12, 2011, at 3pm, at the Tinian mayor's conference room to discuss the application deadline for school year 2011-2012. ***(PR)***

Military training on FDM

The U.S. military will be conducting military exercises on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla on the following schedule:

- July 11-15, 2011, from 1pm to 3am
- July 12-13, 2011, from 8:30am to 4:30pm

The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla training area (R7201) on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants and W-517 irregular polygon south of Guam comprising 14,000 nautical miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest into international waters.

For more information, contact the EMO Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0 or dial CNMI 211. ***(EMO)***

"Every year, coastal communities around the Pacific suffer tragic loss of life and property because of typhoons, which can devastate our island region with destructive winds, heavy rains and flooding, and storm surges," said Red Cross disaster services director J.D. Tenorio. "Because we know that our region is at risk every year, it is vital that we work to keep our families safe by preparing for typhoon season before it even starts. Taking a few moments to discuss some simple, common-sense preparedness steps with your family can save your life and the lives of the ones you love."

"Advance warning systems give us time to evacuate threatened areas when a storm is imminent," Tenorio said. "However, instead of waiting until a storm is threatening our community, the time to prepare is now."

■ Prepare a Personal Evacuation Plan

Identify ahead of time where you could go if you are told to evacuate. Choose several places—a family member or a friend's home that is a concrete structure and away from low-lying areas, or a shelter. If you know you will be evacuating to a shelter, you can call PSS or EMO to identify which shelter you should evacuate to. Be familiar with your community's evacuation routes. Listen to local media broadcasts or NOAA Weather Radio for the latest storm conditions. If advised to evacuate, do so immediately. In case you have to evacuate to a shelter, be sure to bring medications, food and water for at least 2-3 days, extra clothing, pillows and blankets and other hygiene and comfort supplies for all members of your family. Be sure to also make advance preparations for pets, which aren't allowed in shelters.

■ Assemble a Family Disaster Supplies Kit

Have emergency supplies set aside for all members of your household, including emergency medications, non-perishable food and a can opener, bottled water (at least three gallons per person), a battery-powered radio, flashlight and extra batteries, extra clothes, important documents, cash and credit cards, a first aid kit and other special items for infants, elderly or disabled family members and pets.

■ Prepare for High Winds

Make trees more wind resistant by removing diseased and damaged limbs, then strategically removing branches so that wind can blow through. Install permanent aluminum or removable wood shutters on your windows and add protection to the outside areas of sliding glass doors. Move or secure picnic tables and lawn furniture, outdoor decorations or ornaments, trash cans, hanging plants and anything else that can be picked up by wind and become a projectile.

For more information, contact the NMI Chapter at 234-3459 or visit www.nmi.redcross.org. ***(ARC)***

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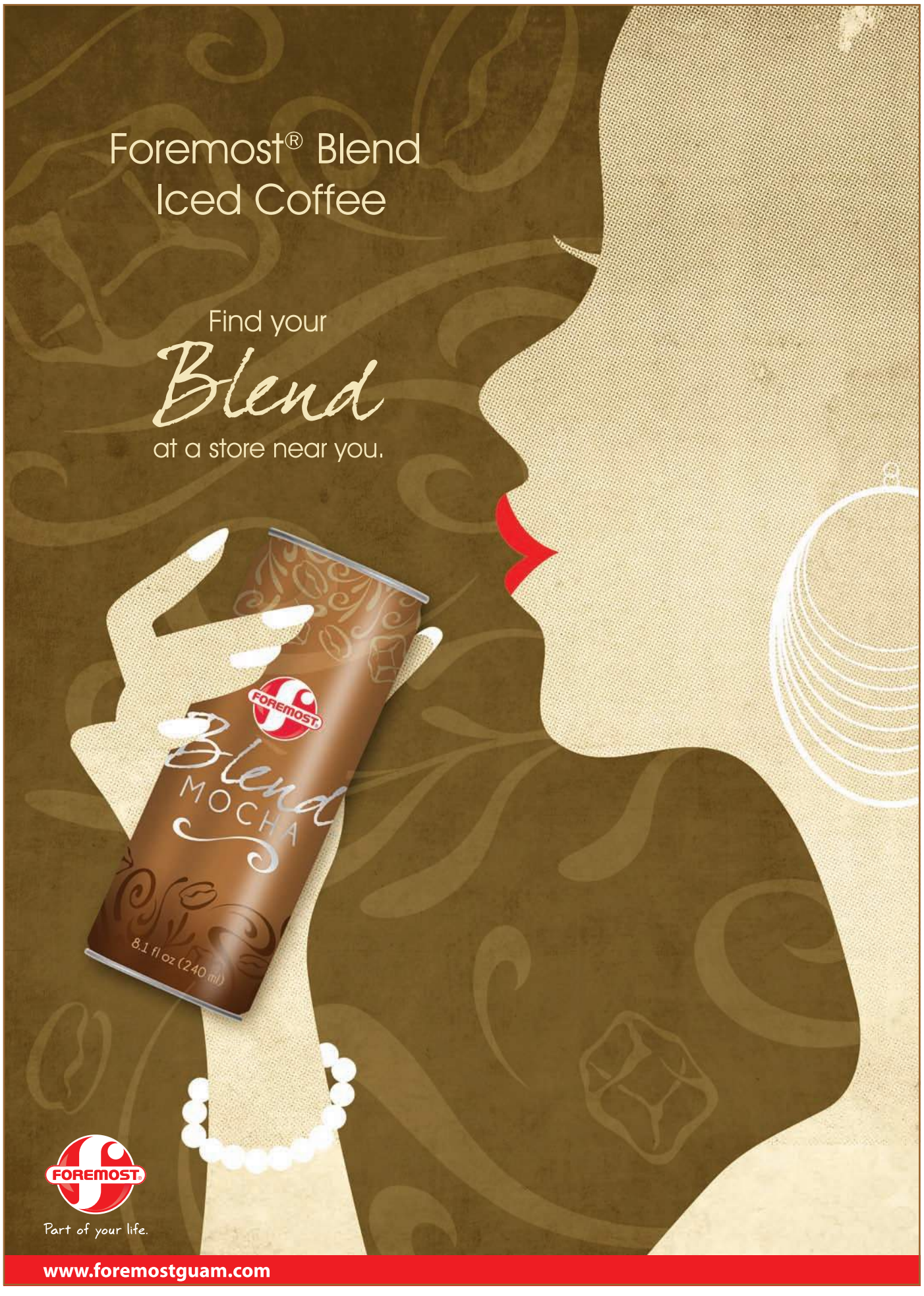

Opinion

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Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press
Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Did Caylee get justice?

(c) 2011, The Miami Herald

From the very beginning, the world was captivated by the videos of a cute little 2-year-old girl with big brown eyes and an engaging giggle. Caylee Anthony disappeared on June 16, 2008. Her grandmother would call police to report that the trunk in her daughter Casey's car, which had been impounded, had a foul smell and that Caylee had not been seen in a month.

From that point on, cable TV and social media such as Facebook and Twitter took hold of this murder mystery, and the trial became an international circus of reporters and over-the-top commentators like CNN's Nancy Grace.

Casey Anthony became a suspect early, as the web of lies that the single mother told her parents and friends during her daughter's monthlong disappearance began to unravel. Among them: that Casey worked at Universal Studios; that Caylee was with a nonexistent nanny named "Zanny;" that Casey was with a rich boyfriend and Caylee in Jacksonville.

Lead prosecutor Linda Drane Burdick concluded the state's case on Monday with images of Casey partying at a club during Caylee's disappearance and a tattoo — Bella Vita, the good life in Italian — that Casey had gotten just one day before her family alerted police that Caylee was missing.

"At the end of this case, all you have to ask yourself is, 'Whose life was better without Caylee?'" Ms. Burdick asked while showing the photos of a clubbing Casey. "This is your answer."

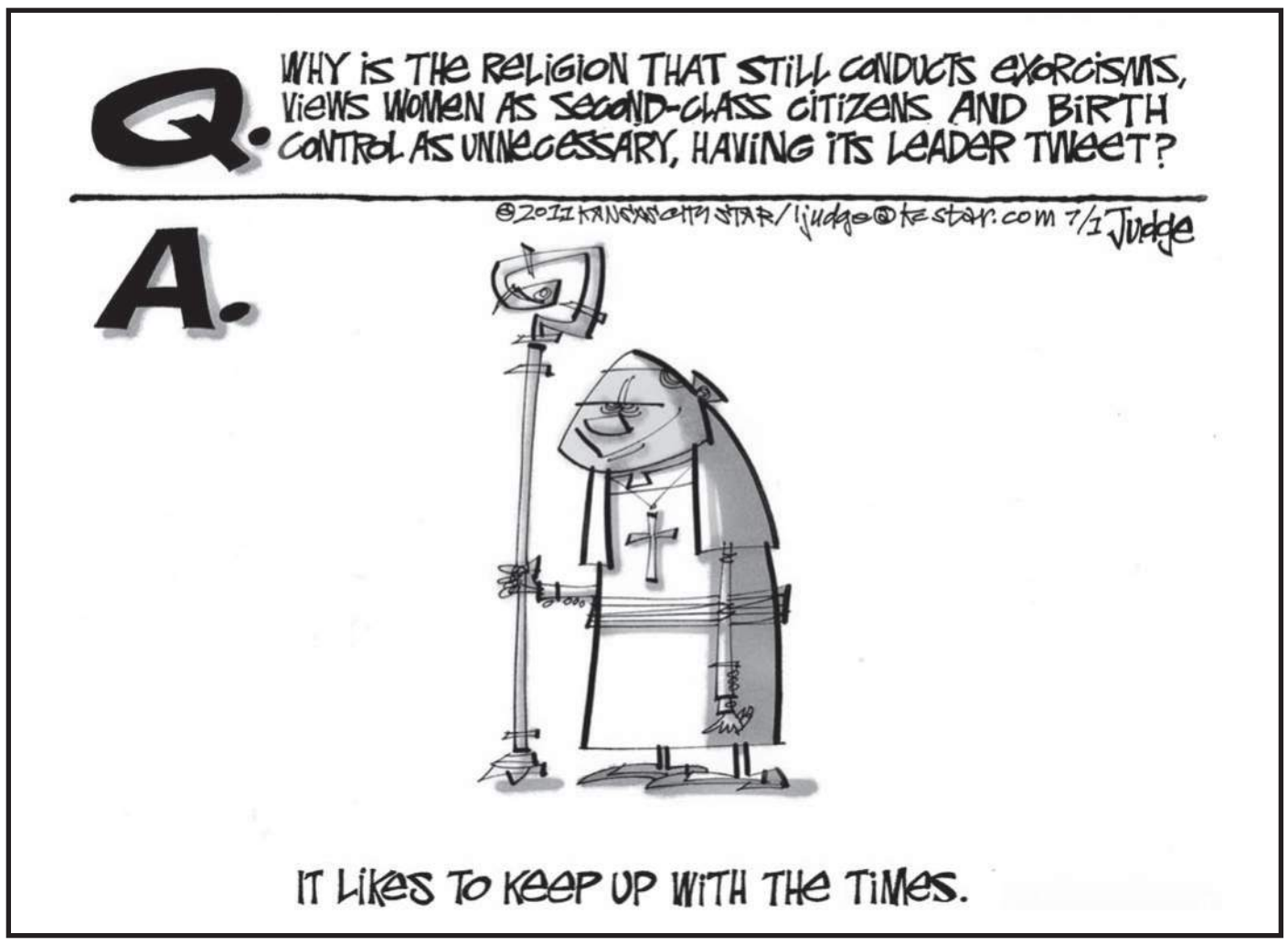
The jury did not buy the state's case. On Tuesday, jurors found Ms. Anthony not guilty of murder or manslaughter or even child abuse. She was found guilty on four counts of lying to police, which carry a maximum of one year per count. Having spent almost three years in jail, Ms. Anthony could be free as early as Thursday, when the jury returns for sentencing.

Was justice served for Caylee?

Her mother's defense attorneys certainly believe so. And the truth is the evidence was problematic because Caylee's severely decomposed body was not found until December 2008 (because a sheriff's deputy had botched an earlier search at that site) near the Anthony family's Orlando-area home. The physical evidence to explain how Caylee died was lost.

For all of defense attorney Jose Baez's unpopularity in the court of public opinion, he managed to raise a "reasonable doubt" in the only court that matters. Mr. Baez focused on a dysfunctional family, on a theory that Caylee had drowned in the family pool, that perhaps her grandmother had left the ladder where the child could climb into the pool, and in a moment of panic Ms. Anthony's father, a former police officer, had duct-taped the dead child to make it seem as if there had been a murder and dumped the body.

This case had all the drama and international media attention of the O.J. Simpson trial more than a decade ago. But in today's super-charged news cycle, it proved to be a stunning end for a 25-year-old woman who faced the death penalty. Stunning and unresolved.


Q. WHY IS THE RELIGION THAT STILL CONDUCTS EXORCISMS, VIEWS WOMEN AS SECOND-CLASS CITIZENS AND BIRTH CONTROL AS UNNECESSARY, HAVING ITS LEADER TWEET?
A.
©2011 KANSAS CITY STAR/ljudge@kcstar.com 7/1 Judge
IT LIKES TO KEEP UP WITH THE TIMES.

Minimum wage law backfires in American Samoa

By SAMUEL HEARNE
ACTION INSTITUTE

A 1961 *Reader's Digest* piece called it "America's shame on the South Seas." American Samoa remains relatively impoverished compared to the rest of the United States to which it is attached. Recent efforts to invigorate its economy offer a lesson in government planning and unintended consequences that those who seek to help the poor would do well to consider.

In 2007, the United States government imposed a new federal minimum wage on American Samoa and the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI.) While this increase was well intended—a response to the islanders' wages being lower than that of their mainland counterparts—the results have been nothing less than devastating.

According to a new report from the United States General Accountability Office (GAO), the 19 percent decline in employment in the workforce that American Samoa has experienced since 2008 was in large part the result of imposing minimum hourly wages across various industries. The island's primary industry is tuna fish canning, with major employers Chicken of the Sea closing and Starkist announcing huge layoffs. In 2008 the number of workers in the canneries was slightly more than 19,000 but has since fallen to 15,400.

Imagine the impact of this kind of job loss on an island with a total population of just over 67,000 people. At the same time, according to the GAO, the value of canned tuna fell from almost $600 million at the end of 2008 to $312 million by the beginning of 2010. What is even more astonishing is that, despite minimum wage laws, earning overall for American Samoans has fallen. "For the period from 2006 to 2009, average inflation-adjusted earnings fell by 11 percent. This resulted from a rise in average annual earnings of about 5 percent while local prices rose by about 18 percent," the GAO report stated. Another federally mandated minimum wage increase is scheduled to go into effect for the cannery industry in September 2012, raising the minimum to $5.26 per hour.

While it would be a wonderful thing if the people in American Samoa and CNMI could have the same standard of living experienced in Hawaii or Oregon, this is not presently possible given the productivity of the islanders' economy. The CIA World Factbook reports that the per capita income in the Independent state of Samoa, American Samoa's closest neighbor, is only $5,500 a year while the income for its other close neighbors Tonga is only $6,100, Niue $5,800, and Fiji $4,600. By comparison, American Samoa is doing rather well at a per capita income of $8,000 (2007 numbers).

However in an economy based on canning tuna it is just not possible to remain competitive when the government continues to raise the costs associated with production.

Official statistics may not tell the whole story. In a June 24 interview with *Samoa News*, Governor Togiola Tulafono of American Samoa said the GAO report "does not capture or convey the magnitude of the economic disaster that has befallen American Samoa." For one thing, the current unemployment rate is fast approaching 25 percent. What's more, the report does not mention the loss of employment in sectors other than tuna canning. "It would not take much in these conservative assumptions for total employment losses in 2010-2011 to reach 10,000-12,000 or roughly 50 to 60 percent declines in total employment in American Samoa from 2008," Tulafono said. Minimum wage increases should "be terminated immediately in American Samoa," he added.

Also calling for the minimum wage increases to be immediately halted is American Samoa's elected non-voting delegate to Congress, Eni Faleomavaega. Like other industries, tuna canneries have options. "Chicken of the Sea closed its operations in the Territory, displacing over 2,000 workers whose jobs were outsourced to Thailand where workers are paid 75 cents and less per hour to clean fish," he said.

The Samoan people's elected delegates have only had minor success in slowing the minimum wage level raises. (The plan was to have it raised to mainland levels of $7.25 an hour by 2016 but this was delayed by President Obama in January pending the findings of the GAO.)

The unintended consequences of minimum wage laws influence the moral calculus of the situation. The obligation to empower the poor cannot be discharged simply by compelling employers to raise wages for their lowest-compensated employees. By analyzing the actual impact of such policies, we see that the solution to poverty will be more delicate and complex. At the least, any proposed solution should engage cooperatively the people who are to be helped. That the minimum wage legislation has bypassed the input of Samoans' themselves is clear from the responses of local leaders such as Tulafono and Faleomavaega. The message from Samoans who are watching their economy sink into the sea is, "Give us more freedom to manage our own markets without interference from Washington's bureaucracy."

It would be better to let wages be set freely between employer and worker, with the underlying productivity of the worker and the realities of the market as a guide. Low wages are better than no wages (unemployment), which is what happens when low-skilled workers are priced out of the labor market by artificial wage floors. Governments, charities, and other institutions all have roles to play in helping such low-wage workers maintain a standard of living befitting of human dignity and enabling them to obtain the skills necessary to gain access to higher-paying jobs. But blunt and inflexible wage controls, no matter how well meaning, will not open the path to prosperity in American Samoa.

Samuel Hearne, a writer based in Melbourne, Australia, worked in the Action Institute communications department this summer.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section*

Imbecile

A word by any other name is a metaphor.

One of the notions in the early history of science is the claim that language can be turned into a precision tool capable of designating a specific word for every reality, making modifiers obsolete. It was to be patterned after the precision that math was trying to attain. Of course, with the discovery that reality can be viewed from the dimension of substance (atoms) and process (energy field waves), to name two perspectives, rendered that ideal a figment of intention more than an object of feasibility.

Take the science of forecasting the movement of stocks in the financial markets. Computers designed to anticipate the increase or decrease in value often involve up to 300 variables, and the methodology is the old game of acknowledging extremes and weighing in on the middle, with the increments of change that follows influencing choice.

Anyone who ever dabbled in macroeconomics to determine an accurate image of aggregate supply and demand would have to construct an algorithm that involves numerous variables, rendering the old Keynesian IS/LM an arcane game in academe rather than a functional tool in policy making.

An earlier image passed on by colleagues in the Internet is a picture of two front frames of amplifier-looking machines, one with almost 300-some buttons, and another, just one. The caption read, "How many buttons does it take to arouse sexual excitement?" The multi-button one was labeled "female"...you get the point!

A PSS colleague no longer on island had a colorful vocabulary that would leave a red face on an old salt, and he would always say, "Hey, that's how we talk in Jersey!" Having lived on the Westside of Chicago, I understood; having visited the Southside often enough left with my middle class morality drowning in street-smart lingo, I can relate.

When a lawyer friend calls me an "eff-ing idiot" to characterize the quality of a decision I made, he is at his endearing best. At his worst, it is best to send the children out of the house.

I've heard our genial commissioner referred to with the "B" word many times. And I've already written about getting an administrative note on my personnel file because I pedagogically used the F-word in class in a year! The use of colorful language is not uncommon; sadly, neither is the hypocritical tsk-tsk-tsk response. In fact, social hypocrisy is a mainstay on the communal menu.

Which brings us to the word used as a title to this reflection. A colleague on the other side of our block decided to highlight it in a news report on MHS principal Craig Garrison being confronted with a question whether he "fired" James Yangetmai. In a verbal exchange, James was told that he was no longer in MHS employ. Craig later clarified that James' contract at MHS ended mid-June; he never fired anyone.

Craig response, as reported, was: "Why do you ask that moronic question you imbecile?" That the reporter deigned to report it might actually justify Craig's repartee (a riposte!), and our commenting on it qualifies us to the same charge, as well, or, we just need a break from listening to our Shenyang Aerospace University Oral English students' final recordings.

My erstwhile SVES Canary pedagogue Ray Palacios might remind himself that adjudicating differences belongs to the judiciary, and the Garrison-Yangetmai tiff, since no administrative charge had been formally leveled, might best be handled by the mediating touch of a John Joyner, or a Lynn Tenorio, before bringing it to the attention of lawyers. And, of course, Garrison should be reminded that using language around soft and tender ears must be made with extreme caution. He was, after all, in the vicinity of the Legislature, not very well known for adult sensibilities!

We are reminded of the faithful housewife who stayed up past midnight on a muggy summer night for her hubby to come home, and the rice earner staggers home way past Friday reeking of alcohol and cheap perfume popular in dance floors, so she bellows: "Would you close that damn door? The draft is killing me." On a sweaty humid dawn, mind you. Obviously, her comment had nothing to do with the open door!

Bato bato sa langit, ang tamaan, huwag magagalit (cast a stone into the sky, he who gets hit, don't cry), is a favored Pinoy saying. News reporters are known for casting stones up high. Hint. Hint.

Those who know Craig will not miss the colorful language. We recall that our Micronesian colleagues of the Trust Territory days were taught Robert's *Rules of Order* and Emily Post's *Etiquette.* The forms are adhered to but not necessarily the spirit the works

See IMBECILE on Page 13

Chamorro Standard Time

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the *Saipan Tribune*

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at Tropical Ed.com. Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday.

Here's something for you: If you say that we're living on Chamorro Standard Time, you're right.

In fact, it's a federal regulation.

Code citations are, alas, not an element of any journalism guides on my shelf, but I think the way to refer to the regulation at hand is "49 C.F.R. 71.14."

Anyway, the regulation specifies a "Chamorro standard time zone," which includes "the Island of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands."

Neat, huh? I think you can win some bar bets with that one. That's why I'm your buddy.

Still, Chamorro time is hardly a universal handle for this zone. My watch refers to this time zone as "SYD," for Sydney, since it specifies zones by whatever large city can be associated with it.

So when it comes to describing our time zone to outsiders, saying "Chamorro Standard Time" sometimes needs some more explanation to go with it.

Most folks I know simply say "Saipan time" or "Guam time," but you can mix and match as you wish.

If we want to specify just where the Chamorro standard time zone really is, we can say it a few ways.

My first choice would be: "Chamorro Standard Time is GMT + 10."

A second way: "Chamorro Standard Time is Tokyo time + 1."

I guess there is some ambiguity in this, since the numbers ("10" or "1") don't have units attached. That they stand for hours is such a common convention I'm happy with not belaboring it.

But if someone wanted to say "GMT + 10 hours," or "Tokyo time plus 1 hour," then, well, why not? Me, I'm just not that innately helpful.

Anyway, the third way: "Chamorro Standard Time is the same time zone as Sydney, Australia," which is a little awkward in phrasing but it gets the point across.

Tokyo and Sydney work as references because, like Saipan, neither one tangles with daylight savings time. Of course, that can always change.

Ah, but GMT, Greenwich Mean Time, won't change on that note. This is the best reference to use if you're messing with time zones. There's a lot of important history in this, and Greenwich, England is famous because it serves as the reference point for navigation and time all over the world.

But I guess this history is being forgotten now, since satellites do our navigating, and since people who work in offices don't have to understand the physical layout of the planet. So why not take a look at this stuff now? A lot of people these days are never exposed to it.

The basic navigation concept goes like so: It's a lot like plotting a point on a graph. On a graph, you have an X-axis and a Y-axis. On the earth, the X-axis is the equator. And the Y-axis is the Prime Meridian, which runs through Greenwich.

Why does Greenwich get the honor of being such an important reference? Well, in the 1700s, the British, very much a sea-faring power, invented a clock that could be taken to sea and that was accurate enough to enable them to reckon their longitude. This was a very big deal. So the reference line for longitude, known as the Prime Meridian, was anchored at the Royal Observatory in Greenwich.

So, just as the equator is zero degrees latitude, the Prime Meridian is zero degrees longitude.

This gig had a brief flash of attention in pop-culture when a movie called *Longitude* hit the scene in 1990. It's a historical drama about the trials and tribulations of clockmaker John Harrison, who invented the necessary clock for navigation, but, for a long time, the high mucky-mucks screwed him out of his reward money. Well, if nothing else, it just goes to show you that you can't trust men in powdered wigs who snort tobacco clippings.

Moving along here, time zones are a function of longitude (until governments need to twist them around to conform to various boundaries), and that's why Greenwich Mean Time is the world's standard reference for time and time zones. Military operations and airline dispatching, for example, are done on GMT.

In fact, the military has the cleanest terminology of all, calling GMT "Zulu" time, or just plain "Z" time. Fast to write, fast to say.

By contrast, the most modern term is the grandiosely awkward "UTC," for Universal Coordinated Time, which is the atomic-clock based refinement of GMT. Well, blah-di-blah-blah.

I mean, let's be serious here: universal? Meaning all the creatures in the entire universe have their VCRs set to this? Maybe that explains all those alien probings; they've come to reset the blinking 12:00 on their coffee makers and had really strange notions about where to plug them in.

Well, I'm sticking with GMT. So: Chamorro Standard Time is GMT + 10.

Nonresident evil

By JIM RAYPHAND
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jim Rayphand is the executive director of the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems, Inc.

Our system of labor and immigration was institutionalized through things like politics, law, religion and social practices[1] as part of an economic scheme designed to maximize profits on the backs of desperate foreigners in the backyard of happy-go-lucky islanders. Nonresidents eagerly accepted substandard conditions/wages and our indigenous people willingly allowed them to take it, effectively setting the bar low and displacing the natural labor force of our islands. To make matters worse, excessive amounts of the money generated in our islands over the course of the past 20 years got funneled abroad and only a handful of wealthy land barons and the likes profited in the exchange. The fate of our local economy, therefore, was predestined and the plight of nearly all rank-and-file workers remained substandard—not by the contrived CNMI standards, but by the modern American standard wherein people should be compensated fairly, allowed to exercise individual freedoms and afforded certain inalienable rights, including but not limited to being treated with dignity and respect.

People of all ethnic backgrounds and political status have had to endure life on our islands without any of the above. And most of us developed a kind of numb acceptance of the status quo despite it being woefully flawed for residents and nonresidents alike. All along, everyone involved (including policy makers, employers and even the workers themselves) were more concerned with making personal (albeit short-term) profit than they were in *protecting any civil, legal, and human interests* or ensuring that the CNMI would prosper in the end. And now, in a convenient diversion from the truth, we want to assign blame without genuinely considering our options for a new course together.

Among other things, some would have us believe in the destructive force of a nonresident evil as if the only thing to fear is a foreigner in the "Homeland." The bullhorn, ruckus of obnoxious racists and countless other veiled minions of racial discrimination hold the line in a despicable war over an imaginary turf being mapped out with scare tactics. Racism is alive and well in the CNMI as it is all over the world. So simple-minded yet provocative and incendiary rhetoric perpetuates the cycle of ignorance and the cultural divides remain in constant flux. Meanwhile, the most relevant issues (i.e., domestic tranquility, economic prosperity, life, liberty and justice for all) get marginalized.

People with disabilities are particularly haunted by this acceptance of a flawed status quo, an all-too-common quest for short-term gain versus a sustainable future and the oppressive prejudices that generally plague our society. The fact that offices like the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. (NMPASI) exist and continue to be called on to challenge the institution and to combat unwarranted discrimination is a sad commentary on our society as a whole. We all, despite disability, race, gender, color, etc., have something good to offer, if only we could agree on and work toward a common goal to build a stronger, more sustainable future. To be sure, progress has been made on all fronts, so we may be inclined, "To stop without a farmhouse near / Between the woods and frozen lake / The darkest evening of the year / The woods are lovely, dark and deep / But (we) have promises to keep / And miles to go before (we) sleep /And miles to go before (we) sleep."[2]

For more on discrimination of and/or the rights of people with disabilities, please feel free to call the NMPASI Office at (670) 235-7273/4 [voice] / 235-7275 [fax] / 235-7278 [tty] or contact on-line at www.nmpasi.com.

[1] *The theme of institutionalizing a system of labor is taken from* The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglas *by Frederick Douglas, a former slave.*

[2] *Robert Frost,* Woods on a Snowy Evening

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Southeast winds 5 to 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms in the morning…then isolated showers in the afternoon.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲83° ▼76°	▲84° ▼77°	▲85° ▼76°	▲83° ▼77°	▲83° ▼77°

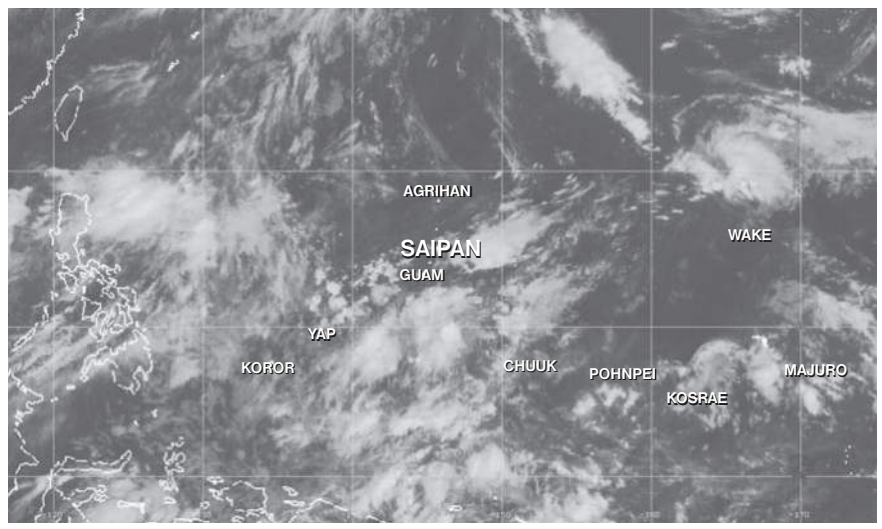
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Rain	▲79	▼75
Palau	Rain	▲84	▼76
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼76
Chuuk	Rain	▲82	▼76
Pohnpei	Rain	▲85	▼73
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼76
Majuro	Showers	▲81	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲60	▼54
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲92	▼70
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲92	▼83
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼75
London	Rain	▲66	▼57
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲78	▼63
Manila	Thundershowers	▲84	▼77
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲57	▼44
Miami	Thundershowers	▲89	▼79
New York	Thundershowers	▲81	▼70
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲88	▼78
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲75	▼57
Pusan	Thundershowers	▲77	▼72
Rome	Sunny	▲88	▼68
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲72	▼51
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼55
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲81	▼69
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲87	▼78
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲86	▼73

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, JULY 7, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Convergent south winds are producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms well northwest of Yap, west of a line from 22N133E to 15N136E. A monsoon trough stretches east-northeastward from 3N137E to a weak circulation centered southeast of Yap near 5N142E, then continues eastward to end south of Chuuk near 4N152E. Another surface trough extends northward from the circulation to just west of the Marianas at 15N144E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found south of a line from 1N142E to 2N152E, within 90 miles of a line from 3N135E to 4N150E, within 130 miles of a line from 7N139E to 11N147E, and within 120 miles of a line from 11N138E to 14N143E. Yap and Koror are just west of these areas while the Marianas are just to the north and east. Another surface trough extends northward from 9N150E to 16N151E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring north of Chuuk between 9N and 13N from 150E to 154E, and east of Saipan within 70 miles of a line from 14N147E to 16N151E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:36 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
8:30 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
2:11 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
7:57 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:52 AM	6:52 PM
Saturday	5:53 AM	6:52 PM
Sunday	5:53 AM	6:52 PM
Monday	5:53 AM	6:52 PM
Tuesday	5:53 AM	6:52 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Friday	12:06 AM	-
Saturday	1:05 PM	12:06 AM
Sunday	2:05 PM	12:54 AM
Monday	3:05 PM	1:45 AM
Tuesday	4:05 PM	2:40 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 10, 2011

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
5K382	6:00pm	6:50pm	2, 5, 7
C09605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

MU590	4:30am	7:20am	2, 6
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 4

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT
C09313/933	7:55am	8:40pm	3, 6 via GUM
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	10:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	9:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
5K168	3:25pm	6:35pm	1, 4, 6
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
5K389	1:35pm	2:25pm	1, 4, 6
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:05pm	12:35am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

MU589	8:50pm	3:30am+1	1, 5
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
DL172/288	7:45am	12:35am+1	Daily via NRT
C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0892/9596	9:55pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 4, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:25am+1	3, 6 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
5K169	9:55am	5:00pm	2, 5, 7
OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	10:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

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  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
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Clarification

Point of clarification must be in order.

My continuous effort to treat every employee and staff at RHC equally with respect to their wages, salaries, or pension is foremost. A good number of documents testified to this action.

My inquiry is rooted in Public Law 17-21, Chapter 7 section a, b, c, and e. The total amount appropriated for the municipality of Rota is $6,256.080. This is determined by the Rota Legislative Delegation Resolution pursuant to section b of this amount, RHC is appropriated for three accounts (1912,1957,1989). Each account is allotted an amount and available for expenditure. Lapsed fund may become available when an employee exited his or her employment. It is this lapsed fund amount that this office is requesting for reprogramming action to pay for professional services.

Further allocation is found in:

Section C $340,000 for professional services

$33,000 for mental health counselor

Section D $77,200.00 for dentist

Knowing full well that the Rota Legislative Delegation did not allocate funds for the above cited sections, reprogramming from the unallocated funds is zero. Worse yet, one cannot reprogram fund from a non-existing account with zero amount to any other account. Nothing means zero. The Rota Delegation Resolution must be mindful of this responsibility. One needs not be and OPA or AGO to audit what zero means. This is elementary—you can do it!

This is written to clear up any frivolous attempt to investigate and audit the status of alleged allocation of fund described in section c and d. What needs to be audited is Account No. 1912, 1957 and 1989. My written request to the Mayor of Rota dates June 15, 2011, for these reviews have not been answered.

Let's put priority where it belongs.

Crispin M. Ayuyu
Director ,PH, RHC

Spare the rod and spoil the child

I recently read about a mother who was arrested for hitting her son. I don't know all the facts but it was obvious her son was not a child but a teen. I'm sure the mother had a reason for hitting her son and he may have even deserved it if his response to his mother was belligerent and/or disrespectful.

The problem is, her actions were not a form of punishment; slapping and hail pulling is assault and the officer did his job. She didn't try to spank him, she assaulted him but I would like to believe the mother still loves her son very much.

After raising children of my own and helping to raise thousands of other people's children I would like to offer this bit of wisdom in child rearing. Spare the rod (switch or belt) and you will spoil the child—meaning you should use corporal punishment while they are a child, not a teenager because if they haven't gotten it by the time they are a teenager, more than likely they are going to have to learn the hard way!

I have seen too many students in my classroom that didn't get the proper home training to respect others, especially adults, and they have very poor socialization skills. This is due to a lack of discipline and home training—if they can get away with anything at home they will try the same thing away from home. Children need to be taught self-discipline and you won't have to discipline them when they become a teen.

The teachings in the Bible are the correct way to raise a child, so don't be afraid to use the rod while they are a child and you don't have to hit that hard. The rod may not be acceptable to everyone but I can tell you it worked for me and I have even learned to appreciate the spankings I got from my mother—I call it tough love.

I never had to spank any of my children past third grade. So parents, if you want a good child to grow up that will always have respect for you and others then start teaching them while they are a child because it is too late to try and beat it into them once they become a teen. I hope this bit of wisdom will help some parents and anyone that wants to argue and get ugly with me on this need to know you will be arguing with Bible's teaching, not me.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman

IMBECILE

From Page 11

promote. Garrison is charged with "arrogance, vindictiveness, and other 'character and attitude' issues." Hey, that puts him in Stanley's corner! Bereft of genuine island entertainment, welcome to the Craig and Stanley show!

BTW, hypocrisy is not about huge animals. Those are "hippos" with an "i" rather than a "y." Hypocrisy of the bloated type is the tobacco lobby claiming social conscience for donating to the cancer research fund, or, the Legislature feigning interest in "children's education." Duh!

Repeal of Article 12

We slide in and out of the discussion of landownership as defined under Article 12. Most haven't taken the time to read it. Opponents want it repealed saying it violates and infringes upon the basic individual's rights to full ownership. Proponents have blindly embraced retaining it "as is" while still others wanted to amend certain provisions.

Article 12 or Covenant Section 805 was intended as a "transitional" provision that permits local review of its retention or repeal after 25 years. This aspect was inserted to ensure that time is afforded our people to secure sophistication in the disposition of issues affecting their livelihood. I think we have reached that juncture in our developmental history.

If you recall, private land was fully owned up until 1978. In other words, we've had a long history of full landownership until Article 12 came into existence. Was there anything wrong with the long history of full landownership that dates back over five centuries? Or is the advocacy to retain this provision based on the hidden agenda (usually gift-wrapped in bigotry) to ensure that current leadership stays in power? How long must we be told how to dispose of our land?

Advocates of Article 12 use the phrase "protection of our children" as a mouthwash without any clear definition of the blind use of the word "protection". This is because they can't see it themselves but a darn good phrase to hide from critical scrutiny. Where's the protection of our children's rights when Article 12 denies landowners full ownership? Since when is private land owned on a halfway basis? Where's the protection when this very provision becomes a displacement tool denying our children their rights to landownership? It is better to convey land to your children by ensuring that you own it 100 percent. Does it make sense at all?

It is the displacement effect on current and future landownership of Article 12 that I find most troubling. It instantly violates and infringes on the individual's rights to property guaranteed under the Bill of Rights of the U.S. Constitution. Too, logic dictates that if something is, it can't be isn't at the same time. In short, if a certain parcel of land is my land, it can't be argued that it isn't my land at the same time. These two issues are being confused and overlooked whenever we engage in lively discussion about Article 12.

You see, retaining this constitutional provision not only denies the original landowner his rights to full ownership, but even the rights of his children. An entire family and generations are denied their rights to landownership. It denies them the rights to full enjoyment of their property, i.e., using the equity of their land to build the first family home or a small family business or meet family needs. Unless the question of ownership is resolved, we'd be in limbo for generations to come, turning landless because we simply refuse to realistically address and resolve an anomaly that exists under Article 12.

If the future of your children matters to you, then let's rally behind the idea of repealing Article 12 forthwith. It's become a tool of alienation of the very people it's supposed to protect in terms of full landownership. Only then would we be able to fully own what we claim as our private land. *Si Yuus Maase` yan Ghilisow!*

John S. DelRosario Jr.
As Gonno, Saipan

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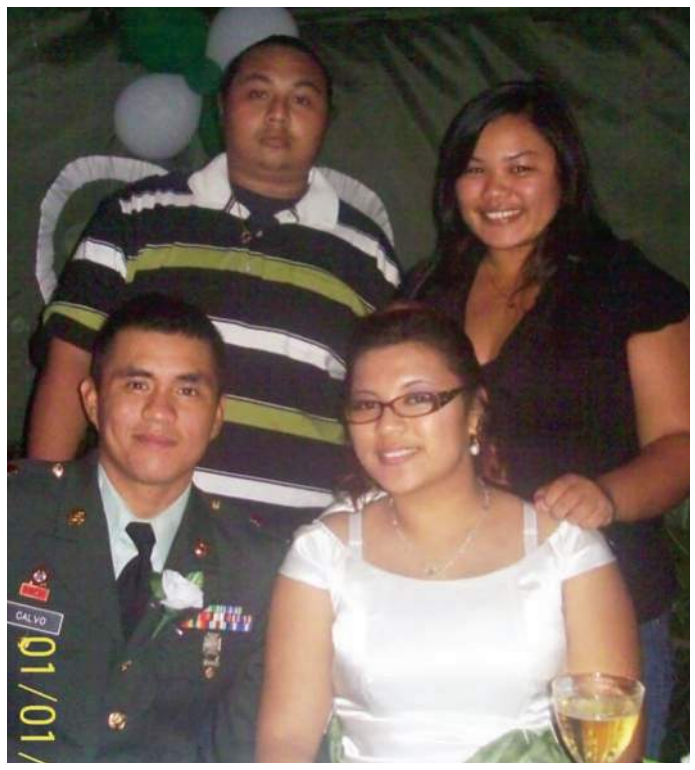

Happy birthday to our boy, Sage Jerome Lizama Santos! Wish we where there to celebrate your first birthday. Your candy bags are coming your way for you to give out on your party. We love you, SJ! Greetings come from Craig & Martinie Calvo.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Advanced happy birthday to my sister Kimberly Marie Manibusan Lizama aka Kiki, standing right. May you have the best 20th birthday! We love you! Greetings come from Craig and Martinie Calvo.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 4th birthday to our princess, Chelsy L. Reyes, who is celebrating her special day today, July 8, 2011. May you have the best birthday ever and many more to come. Greetings coming out from Sweetie, Grandma, Mom, Dad, brother Kimo and Collin.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated happy birthday to Shab C. Sablan! May you have many more birthdays to come and God bless you. Love always, Stacy, Seancy, Shacey, Shabjae, and your entire Cabrera/Sablan families!

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OAG cautions against online notary services

The Office of the Attorney General warned yesterday that online webcam notarization is invalid and illegal in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A private company claims to have the first online notarization website and has sent misleading information and made false claims to CNMI notaries public concerning a new online notarization service. The web-based platform purports to allow a person to submit copies of identification over the Internet and to use a webcam in lieu of a personal appearance in front of a notary public. Appearance via webcam does not meet the requirements for notarization in the CNMI.

CNMI law requires a person to appear personally before a notary public to obtain notarial acts like acknowledgments or *jurats*. This means the party must be physically present before the notary public.

A video image or other form of non-physical representation is not a personal appearance in front of a notary public under current state or federal laws. The Office of the Attorney General says the technology solution offered by this private company does not comply with CNMI law. ***(Office of the Governor)***

MYUNG DONG RESTAURANT

Celebrating a year of offering authentic Korean dining

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

WHAT'S COOKING?

Myung Dong is a world famous tourist and shopping district in Seoul. Its namesake on Saipan is a restaurant that offers an authentic Korean dining experience in the heart of Garapan.

Everything from the Myung Dong Korean Restaurant's façade, to its interior dominated by a sprawling gazebo seating, to its VIP rooms with sliding windows and wood-board flooring, and its exquisite table settings remind diners of the Hermit Kingdom.

And that's only for starters, as the restaurant's Korean chef regularly whips up traditional gastronomic favorites, including the sumptuous Seng Galbi (pan-boiled beef ribs) and Mul Naengmyun (Korean cold noodle soup).

Owner Grace Seo said one of the reasons why she opened Myung Dong in July 12, 2010 was to bring authentic Korean cuisine to Saipan.

However, she wasn't content with just serving Korean food in a traditional way, she also wanted the look and feel of Korean dining to come with it. Hence, the uniquely Korean setup outside and inside Myung Dong.

Seo is quick to point out that Myung Dong only uses choice meats, fresh vegetables, top-of-the-line ingredients, as well as herbs and spices imported from Korea. She also boasts that Myung Dong serves healthy fare. For instance, the soup base of the Korean cold noodle soup it serves is made from blended boiled fruits like pears, pineapples, apples, and kiwis.

"We want to introduce everyone to healthy dining—the Korean way," she said.

Anniversary promotion

In celebration of its one-year anniversary, Seo said they would be offering a dinner menu at a very special price of only $20.

The set meal will include sashimi, three kinds of Kimchi (cucumber, radish, Chinese cabbage), a choice of Seng Galbi or Yangnum Galbi (marinated beef ribs), Mul Naengmyun, and bottomless iced tea.

Seo said the dinner menu is a real money saver as an order of Seng Galbi or Yangnum Galbi alone on regular days already costs $20, the same price for a gigantic bowl of Mul Naengmyun.

"I want to thank the local community on Saipan for embracing Myung Dong Korean Restaurant during its first year of existence. We are offering this promotion as a 'big thank you' to all our patrons," said Seo.

In addition to the $20 dinner menu, Seo also said that Myung Dong will serve its very popular chasers at reduced prices.

For instance, an order of Ojingeo Bokkeim or spicy stir-fried squid will now cost only $10, the same price as Doobu Kimchi or tofu and Kimchi. A plate of Jokbal, or pig trotters which usually go for $20 will sell for only $15.

MARK RABAGO

Myung Dong only uses choice meats, fresh vegetables, top-of-the-line ingredients, as well as herbs and spices imported from Korea.

Seo said Myung Dong's dinner menu and chaser promotions will last from July 8 to July 31.

Myung Dong seats 130 customers and has three VIP rooms for private functions. It is open everyday from 5pm to 3am.

The restaurant is located along Hotel Street on the second floor of Pacific Sun Life Building across Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. For reservations, call 233-3355.

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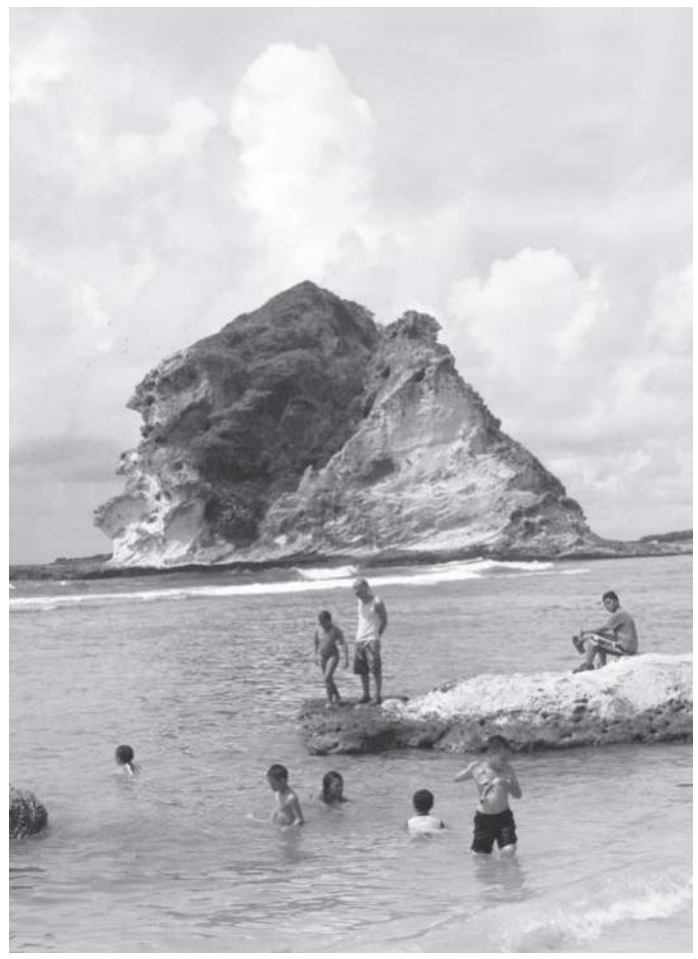
Hike, swim, and snorkel at Eco Camp

Eco Camp at the Mariana Resort and Spa continues this summer for the 12th year. Session 3 starts on Monday, July 11.

"We are having another great summer. This week the kids learned about green sea turtles and then trekked down to Bird Island Beach for a hike and snorkel adventure," says Marianas Trekking camp director Vincene Asanuma. "We are really proud to have been able to offer Eco Camp in partnership with the Mariana Resort for over a decade now, we are now at the point where kids who used to go to camp are now working as counselors."

Kids are separated by age and each group has a set of counselors that teach and interact with the group throughout the day. Local kids as well as tourists interact and play together. Most local kids come for two-week sessions while tourists usually join for shorter periods.

"The kids definitely love the water and field trips, we are in the ocean or pool at least once a day, and we also plan indoor activities as well so there is a good balance in the schedule. Kids here on vacation from Guam, Japan, Korea, and elsewhere can join in for a full session or just for a couple of days so it really is a great place for locals and tourists to make some new friends," said Asanuma.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Eco Campers at Bird Island Beach.

Resort Camp facilities include three swimming pools, a golf course, soccer fields, snorkel and kayak beach, go kart track, stables, tennis court, a theatre, buffet lunch option, and an arts and crafts room.

Registration is on line at marianastrekking.com.

Since 2000, Eco Camp has been held each summer and Christmas break at the Mariana Resort and Spa. It is designed for kids between the ages of 4 and 13. Pick up service is available from the American Memorial Park tennis courts. For more information, call Asanuma at 323-8735 or log on to marianastrekking.com. ***(PR)***

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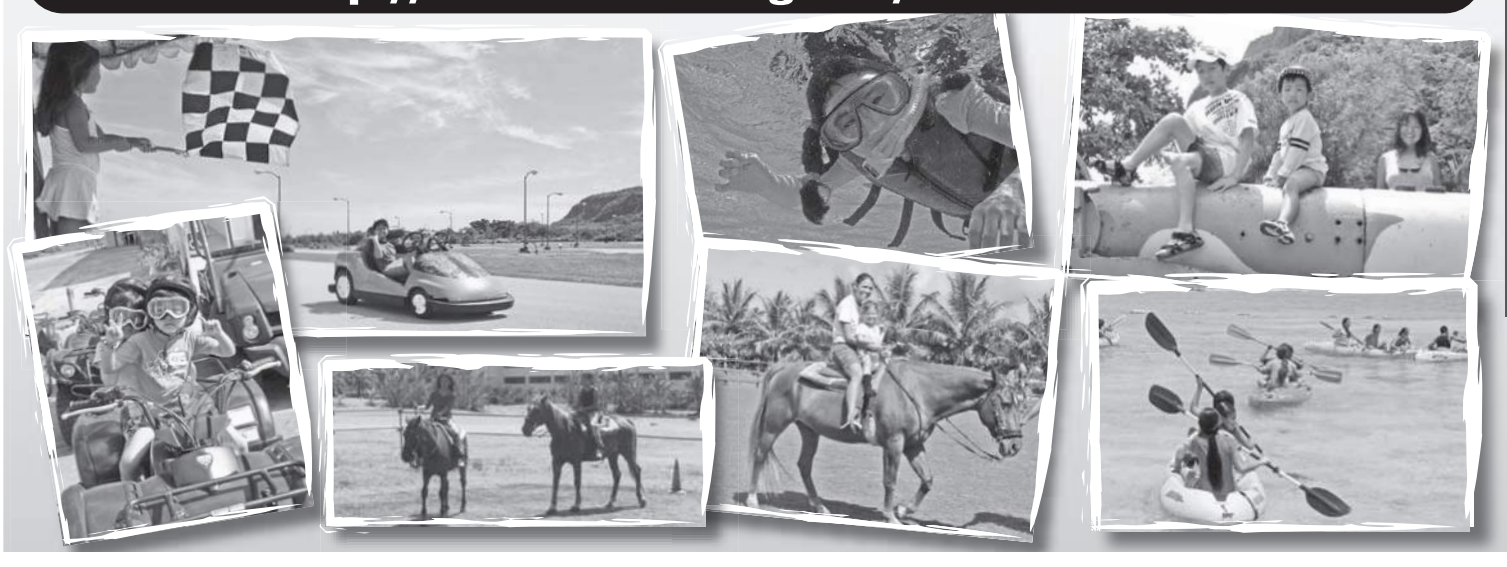


Session 1 starts Monday

Session 1:	June 13th to June 24th
Session 2:	June 27th to July 8th
Session 3:	July 11th to July 22nd
Session 4:	July 25th to August 5th
Ages	4 to 13 years
Time	9:00a.m. to 3:00p.m. (extended care up to 5:00p.m. is free)
Where	Mariana Resort & Spa

Optional pick-up service in Garapan

Local Price		
	Daily:	$ 30.00
	Weekly:	$125.00
	Two Weeks:	$ 195.00

(Lunch - $5.00 per day or bring your own.)

Camp Activities Include: Swimming Lessons, Go Karts, Kayaking, Snorkeling, Volleyball, Mountain, Biking, Movie Making, Horseback Riding, Ocean Safety, Golf, Field Trips, Arts and Crafts, and more!

For more information, please call Marianas Trekking at 323-8735.

Business

Lawyers in Strauss-Kahn case hold private talks

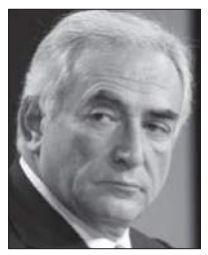
NEW YORK (AP)—Lawyers for Dominique Strauss-Kahn met with prosecutors Wednesday for what the defense called a productive discussion, but there was no immediate word on what would happen to the sexual assault case that has been threatened by doubts about the accuser's credibility.

The two sides met privately for about 90 minutes in Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance Jr.'s offices, but participants were tight-lipped about the exchange, which came five days after prosecutors said the accuser had not been truthful about her background and the aftermath of the alleged attack.

Lawyers for the former leader of the International Monetary Fund called the session with Vance and assistant prosecutors "constructive." Vance's office said only that it was continuing to investigate and that no decisions had been made about the case's future.

Hours later, the woman's lawyer asked Vance to appoint a special prosecutor to take over the matter, citing questions about the way prosecutors have treated the accuser.

In a letter, Kenneth Thompson said he believes the DA's office is behind media reports that the 32-year-old woman referred to Strauss-Kahn's wealth in a recorded telephone call to an incarcerated friend. Thompson said he wants to ensure her rights "are not further prejudiced by deliberate acts seeking to undermine her credibility."


Strauss-Kahn

A Vance spokeswoman said the request was baseless and mischaracterized the work of prosecutors.

Wednesday's discussion in Vance's office came amid intensifying public debate over the allegations, with a police fraternal group and others pressing prosecutors not to drop the matter. Strauss-Kahn was represented by Benjamin Brafman and William W. Taylor III.

Private meetings between prosecutors and defense attorneys are not unusual, but the stakes in the Strauss-Kahn case are especially high.

The defense has said it wants an outright dismissal, insisting that the encounter with a Manhattan hotel maid was not forced. Prosecutors must decide whether to forge ahead with a flawed case, seek a face-saving plea deal or cut their losses—a decision fraught with political peril for Vance.

Meanwhile, Strauss-Kahn, who was a leading presidential contender in France before his arrest, faces a July 13 deadline to register in the Socialist Party primary. That's just five days before his next court date.

It's unclear whether he might be able to enter the race later and what French voters would think if he did. Recent polls in France have shown people divided over any potential return to politics.

GOP shows some flexibility, Obama aims for higher cuts

WASHINGTON (AP)—Republicans showed new signs of flexibility to break a budget impasse Wednesday, but the White House raised the ante—pushing for more deficit reduction and taking a pugnacious tone casting the GOP as defenders of corporate tax giveaways.

The repositioning by both sides appeared to open new compromise possibilities a day before President Barack Obama was set to host the bipartisan congressional leadership for new talks on the budget. The secret negotiations were gaining new urgency because they are tied to an Aug. 2 deadline to raise the government's borrowing authority.

First, House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, R-Va., declared he was open to closing tax loopholes that the White House says are wasteful and ineffective and that would generate some money toward reducing deficits over the long term.

Democratic officials, in turn, said President Barack Obama wants far more deficit reduction than the $2 trillion over 10 years that for weeks has been the target for budget negotiators. Obama in April proposed deficit reduction of $4 trillion over 12 years and White House spokesman Jay Carney said Wednesday that goal remained "something to aspire to."

But even as White House officials expressed confidence that negotiations ultimately would succeed, Obama took a combative approach ahead of Thursday's meeting.

"The debt ceiling should not be something that is used as a gun against the heads of the American people to extract tax breaks for corporate jet owners or oil and gas companies that are making billions of dollars," Obama said during a town hall that featured questions posed through the online social network Twitter.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Exxon said failed Mont. pipeline was deeply buried

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP)—Exxon Mobil Co. had reassured federal regulators and officials from a Montana town since December that an oil pipeline beneath the Yellowstone River was safe, buried deep enough to avoid any accidental ruptures. Then, on Friday night, the pipe failed, spilling an estimated 42,000 gallons into the flooded river. The cause of the accident remains under investigation, but the prevailing theory among officials and the company is that the raging Yellowstone eroded the riverbed and exposed the line to damaging rocks or debris.

Oil settles little changed, below $97 a barrel

NEW YORK (AP)—A stronger dollar and higher interest rates in China kept a lid on the price of oil Wednesday. Benchmark West Texas Intermediate crude for August delivery lost 24 cents to settle at $96.65 per barrel Wednesday on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Brent crude, used to price many international oil varieties, added a penny to settle at $113.62 per barrel on the ICE Futures exchange in London. Crude had been rising since last week, nearly recovering from a late-June drop to around $90 a barrel following the announcement that the U.S. and other countries would release 60 million barrels of crude into world markets.

Auto industry, seeing new life, is on hiring spree

DETROIT (AP)—Volkswagen opened a plant in Tennessee last month with 2,000 workers. Honda is hiring 1,000 in Indiana to meet demand for its best-selling Civic. General Motors is looking for 2,500 in Detroit to build the Chevy Volt. Two years after the end of the Great Recession, the auto industry is hiring again—and much faster than the rest of the economy. As an employer, it's growing faster than airplane manufacturers, shipbuilders, health care providers and the federal government. The hiring spree is even more remarkable because memories of the U.S. auto industry's near-death experience are fresh. In 2009, General Motors and Chrysler both got government bailouts and entered bankruptcy, and auto sales hit a 30-year low.

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$150.00 One Captain, One Angler ($25.00 additional crewmember)
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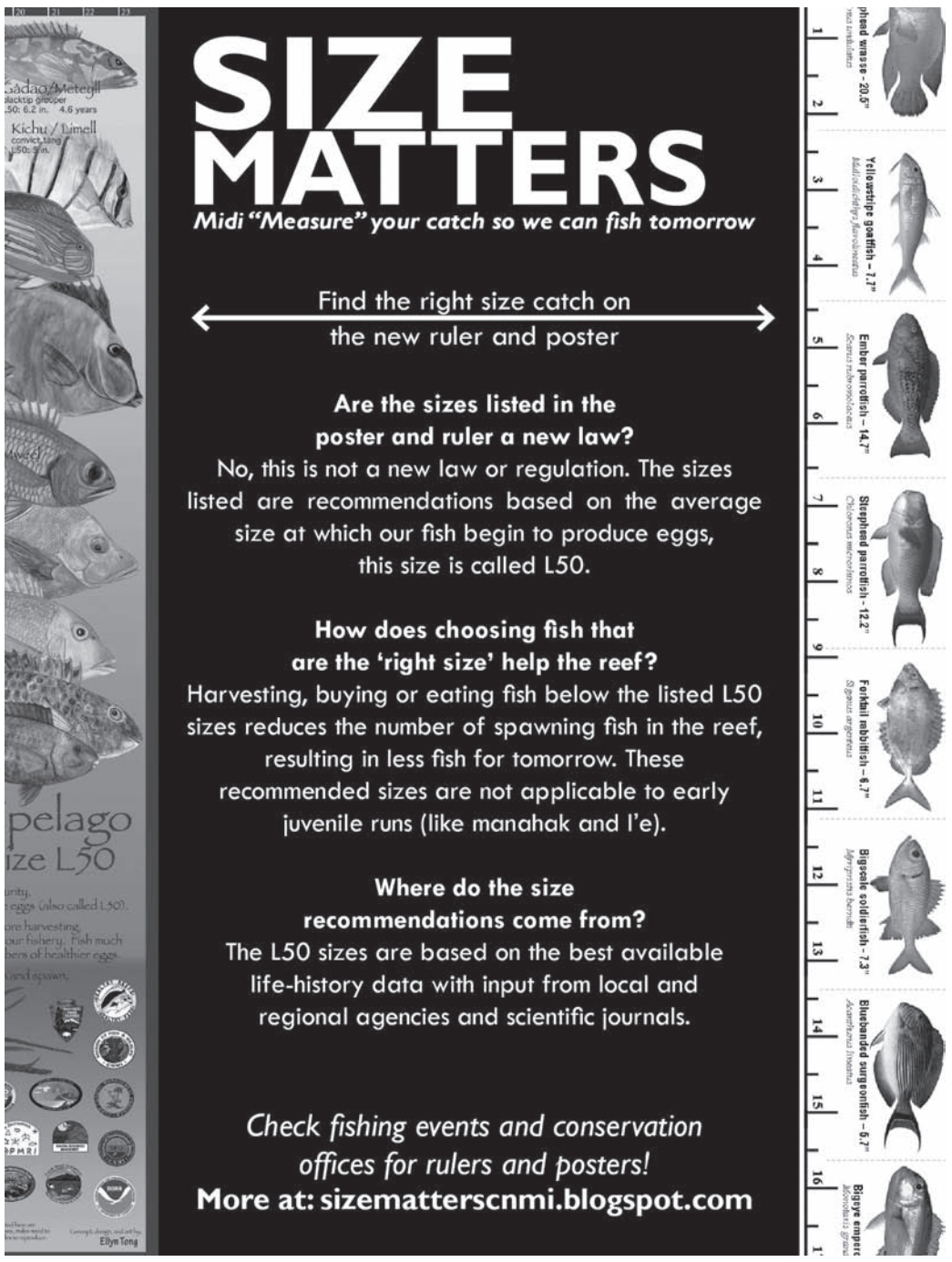
For more information, contact Edward Diaz or Frank Tudela at 1 (670) 664-3200/01
or send inquiries to ediaz@mymarianas.com or ftudela@mymarianas.com

2011 Summer Youth Employment Training Program Qualifiers for Saipan

PHASE I-July 11-August 05, 2011
WORK READINESS WORKSHOP STARTS TUESDAY, JULY 5-JULY 7, 2011 8AM TO 5PM AT THE AMERICAN MEMORIAL PARK
***SEE SCHEDULE BELOW**
ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY FOR ALL QUALIFIERS
MEET YOUR EMPLOYER ON THURSDAY, JULY 7, 2011 2PM-4PM AT THE AMERICAN MEMORIAL PARK

	PARTICIPANT	POSITION	PLACEMENT	WORKSHOP SCHEDULE
1	**Ada, Bernice Jane T.**	Registration Clerk	Election Commission	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
2	**Adeva, Mark Kenneth A.**	Fast Food Worker	Subway	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
3	**Aguilar, Anthony Jesse C.**	Recreation Worker	Garapan Community Center	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
4	**Aguilar, Dorraine C.**	Administrative Assistant	Procurement & Supply	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
5	**Aguilo, Gerald Jesse M.,Jr.**	Supply Technician	Procurement & Supply	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
6	**Aguilo, John T. Jr.**	Office Clerk	CPA-Ports Police,Security Access	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
7	**Agustines, Nikkael Choicest M.**	Account Clerk	CHC-Account Receivable	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
8	**Aldan, Alexander Daniel N.**	Sales Clerk	Joeten Susupe Market	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
9	**Aldan, Liyan Yashio L.**	Library Aide	Joeten Kiyu Public Library	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
10	**Aldan, Michael C.**	Stock Clerk	Ace Hardware, San Vicente	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
11	**Aldan, Mikayla Merced L.**	Maintenance Technician	NMC-Administrative Services	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
12	**Alexander, Romen T.**	Office Clerk	DPH-Laboratory	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
13	**Alexander, Temuo James, Jr.**	Guest Service Officer	Hyatt Regency Saipan-Bell Service	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
14	**Alomia, Luisito L.Jr.**	Registration Clerk	Election Commission	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
15	**Amandus, Clarence Lee**	Office Clerk	DPH-Medical Referral	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
16	**Ancheta, Ashley P.**	Office Clerk	DCCA-NAP	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
17	**Angeles, Anais Joy M**	Ed Tech	NMC-IT	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
18	**Angey, Sherny L.**	Library Aide	Joeten Kiyu Public Library	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
19	**Angui, Ayana Jane U.**	Recreation Worker	Garapan Community Center	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
20	**Apolinar, Mhark Julian C.**	Sales Clerk	Chong's Corporation	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
21	**Apolinar, Jessica C.**	Fast Food Worker	Subway	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
22	**Atalig, Brenton Tyler**	Kitchen Helper	J.E.T. Holdings,J's Gualo Rai	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
23	**Attao, Lorenzo Jose C.**	Kitchen Helper	J.E.T.Holdings,J's Bowling	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
24	**Avila, Jademark P**	Customer Service	Pacific Airport Services,Inc.	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
25	**Babauta, Jacob R.**	Office Clerk	DCCA-Secretary's Ofc.Capitol Hill	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
26	**Babauta, Versalli R.**	Parole Office Aide	Board of Parole	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
27	**Bartolome, Jerica S.**	Administrative Assistant	NMC-OAR	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
28	**Bartolome, Jerome S.**	Library Aide	Joeten Kiyu Public Library	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
29	**Basiente, Brian John**	Bagger	Joeten Hafa Adai,Garapan	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
30	**Basitista, Bradley Roy I.**	Trades Assistant	DPH-Maintenance Office	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
31	**Beltran, Jesse O.**	Cashier	Ace Hardware, San Vicente	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
32	**Biado, Carizza Camille D.**	Media Service Aide	NMC-Media Services	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
33	**Billedo, Junalyn L.**	HR Clerk	Hyatt Regency Saipan-HR	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
34	**Binalen, Marvin L.**	Community Worker	Saipan Mayor's Office	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
35	**Borja, Alexander P.,Jr.**	Office Clerk	DLNR-Secretary's Office	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
36	**Borja, Britney Ann C.**	Receptionist	DPH-Medicaid	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
37	**Borja, Celtus Ray Y.**	Office Clerk	Board of Professional Licensing	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
38	**Borja, Colleen Mildred C.**	Office Clerk	DPH-Medicaid	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
39	**Borja, Elisha R.**	Registration Clerk	DPH-Business Office	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
40	**Borja, Peter Gabriel DLC.**	Office Clerk	CPA-Ports Police(Airport)	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
41	**Borja, Sarah Lynn S.**	Sales Clerk	Joeten Susupe, Athletes Foot	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
42	**Borja, Standy S.**	Office Clerk	JTC,Marianas Management Corp.	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
43	**Borja, Willina Mae**	Registration Clerk	Election Commission	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
44	**Brel, Janelle K.**	Administrative Assistant	Pacific Trading Co.,LTD.	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
45	**Brel, Mario**	Community Worker	Saipan Mayor's Office	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
46	**Butalon, Jenny Rose A.**	Office Clerk	CHC-Medical Referral	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
47	**Butalon, Rizza Joy Atienza**	Office Clerk	CHC-Accounts Payable	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
48	**Caacbay, Noemi A.**	Office Clerk	DPH-Laboratory	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
49	**Cabaobao, George Bob A.**	Recreation Worker	Garapan Community Center	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
50	**Cabrera, Annalyn Jovannah**	Legal Intern	Torres Tenorio Torres Law Firm	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
51	**Cabrera, Brandon Clint**	Registration Clerk	Election Commission	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
52	**Cabrera, Jewels Malia A.**	Administrative Assistant	NMC-Administrative Services	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
53	**Cabrera, Johnson P.**	Recreation Worker	Garapan Community Center	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
54	**Camacho, Gregory M.**	Merchandising Clerk	D&Q Saipan,Co.,Ltd	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
55	**Camacho, Kianah R.**	Office Clerk	DPH-Medical Records	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
56	**Camacho, Mariano M.,Jr.**	Housekeeping	Aqua Resort Club	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
57	**Camacho, Mikala marie C.**	Legal Intern	Torres Tenorio Torres Law Firm	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
58	**Camacho, Roman John P.**	Warehouseman	Pacific Trading Co.,LTD.	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
59	**Caragay, Katrina M.**	Administrative Assistant	NMC-Nursing Department	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
60	**Carman, Edfel D.**	Subway	Subway	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
61	**Castro, Amanda J.**	Front Desk Clerk	Aqua Resort	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
62	**Castro, Cassandra Lyn**	Customs Trainee	Division of Customs-Seaport	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
63	**Castro, Doris Marie C.**	Office Clerk	CPA-Ports Police,Police Admin.	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
64	**Castro, Jenya Doverly K.**	Office Clerk	DCCA-Secretary's Ofc Capitol Hill	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
65	**Catilo, Kenneth S.**	Computer Lab Aide	NMC-Computer Lab	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
66	**Celis, Macy Lynn M.**	Administrative Assistant	NMC-Dean APS	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
67	**Celis, Raewyn Magdalena E.**	Office Clerk	Board of Parole	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
68	**Chan, Adriel B.**	Library Aide	Joeten Kiyu Public Library	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
69	**Chan, Joel B.**	Licensing Clerk	DPS-BMV	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
70	**Chenor, Samantha E.**	Office Clerk	DPS-Highway Safety	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
71	**Chlarson, Henry Mark A.**	Licensing Clerk	DPS-BMV	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
72	**Cucal, Arni D.**	Office Clerk	DCCA-NAP	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
73	**Daikichy, Nester N.**	Customs Trainee	Division of Customs-Seaport	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
74	**Dantic, Leonard Ray Dizon**	Clerk	Sorenson Production,TV	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
75	**Dawe, Wayne Brandon N.**	Supply Technician	DPH-Material Management,Lower Base	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
76	**Dela, Edith M.**	Office Clerk	Ernst & Young	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
77	**Defang, Freeman Sylvester**	Office Clerk	CPA-Police Admin.(Airport)	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
78	**Defang, Norman Sylvester**	Office Clerk	CPA-Ports Police Support	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
79	**Dela Cruz, Derick D.**	Office Clerk	DPH-Secretary's Office	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
80	**Dela Cruz, Kellie John D.**	Warehouseman	Pacific Trading Co.,LTD.	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
81	**Delcon Guerrero, Lawrence R.**	Recreation Worker	Garapan Community Center	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
82	**Demapan, Arnold Sherman A.**	Computer Lab Aide	NMC-Computer Lab	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
83	**Edquilta, Ryan Carlo L.**	Office Clerk	DPH-Divisions	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
84	**Emilinea, Gwenavere DLG.**	Registration Clerk	Election Commission	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
85	**Eniser, Mackrin**	Office Clerk	DCCA-NAP	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
86	**Esefou, Albert S.**	Customs Trainee	Division of Customs-Airport	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
87	**Esefou, Kesser**	Customs Trainee	Division of Customs-Airport	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
88	**Esmer, Kerr Rose C.**	Office Clerk	Rep.Joseph Mafnas Palacios	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
89	**Esposo, Jhunilyn S.**	Registration Clerk	Election Commission	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
90	**Espayos, Matthew M.**	Office Clerk	DPS-Ports Police,Security Access	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
91	**Estoque, Benedick D.**	Waitstaff	Hyatt Regency Saipan	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
92	**Fabuada, Ufer Jae**	Stock Clerk	Joeten Dandan Market	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
93	**Francisco, Neil G**	Licensing Clerk	DPS-BMV	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
94	**Francisco, Ralph G.**	Licensing Clerk	DPS-BMV	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
95	**Germinaro, Roseanne Pauline S.**	Maintenance Technician	Aqua Resort Club	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
96	**Gideon, Liyelmatas K.**	***TBD-CONTACT WIA OFFICE***	***TBD-CONTACT WIA OFFICE***	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
97	**Gomez, Kenneth Liquiran**	Warehouseman	Coca-Cola	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
98	**Greenman, Stanaleen A.**	Sales Clerk	YCO Chalan Kiya	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
99	**Guerrero, Estella R.**	Scholarship Office	Scholarship Office	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
100	**Helbert, Marla**	Office Clerk	Coca-Cola	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
101	**Hiromi, Messyla H.**	Office Clerk	Saipan Mayor's Office	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
102	**Hofschneider, Nikita Ann T.**	Administrative Assistant	Sorenson Pacific / Phase 1	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
103	**Hossain, Mohammed A.**	Office Clerk	DPL-Real Estate Division	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
104	**Hossain, Mohammed O.**	Kitchen Helper	DPH-Dietary Unit	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
105	**Ibarra, Dan Deric D.**	Customer Service	J.E.T. Holdings,Blossoms Floral	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
106	**Ibarra, Ryan D.**	Office Clerk	J.E.T. Holdings	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
107	**Ichihara, Puleen Jessicalyn C.**	Information Services Aide	NMC-IT	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
108	**Iderbei, Meredith R.**	***TBD-CONTACT WIA OFFICE***	***TBD-CONTACT WIA OFFICE***	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 8AM-12NOON
109	**Igisomar, John Davin R.**	Office Clerk	CPA-Human Resources(Airport)	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
110	**Iglecias, Raeiosha Deanna A.**	Registration Clerk	Election Commission	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
111	**Ilo, Litiwsar Mpoco**	Office Clerk	Northern Is. Mayor's Office	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
112	**Ilo, Rianalyn Camacho**	Office Clerk	Northern Is. Mayor's Office	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
113	**Indalecio, David Jesus S.**	Maintenance Technician	NMC-Administrative Services	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
114	**Indalecio, David Miguel M.,Jr.**	***TBD-CONTACT WIA OFFICE***	***TBD-CONTACT WIA OFFICE***	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
115	**Ingram, Trieia Ann L.**	Administrative Assistant	NMC-Administrative Services	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
116	**Jack, Traina**	Waitstaff	Hyatt-Food & Beverage	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
117	**Jones, Janet L.**	Office Clerk	DPH-Chest Clinic	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
118	**Kacys, Lorielyn Monica D.**	Office Clerk	DPH-Medicaid	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
119	**Kaipat, Christine Mary W.**	Licensing Clerk	DPS-BMV	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
120	**Kaipat, Joel Chico W.**	Office Clerk	DCCA-NAP	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
121	**Kaipat, Leon Terence W.**	Terminal Documentation Clerk	Saipan Stevedore Co.Inc.	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
122	**Kani, Santiago Andrew C.**	Guest Service Officer	Hyatt Regency Saipan-Communication Centre	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
123	**Kasian, Ines L.**	Library Aide	Joeten Kiyu Public Library	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
124	**Kazuo, Selima C.**	Dispatcher	DPS-Police	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
125	**Keju, Peterson J.**	Information Services Aide	NMC-IT	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
126	**Kelmal, Dorabeth N.**	***TBD-CONTACT WIA OFFICE***	***TBD-CONTACT WIA OFFICE***	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
127	**Kikleman, John A.,Jr.**	Customs Trainee	Division of Customs-Airport	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
128	**King, Milagros Concepcion Inton**	Research Assistant	MVA	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
129	**King, Rebekka Angela Inton**	Administrative Assistant	MVA	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
130	**Kumuch, Anthonio Luckson**	Trades Assistant	DPH-Maintenance Office	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
131	**Lacandazo, Erene Rose S.**	Office Clerk	DCCA-NAP	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
132	**Lacanilao, Paolo S.**	Customs Trainee	Division of Customs-Seaport	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
133	**Lacanilao, Richard S.**	Recreation Worker	Garapan Community Center	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
134	**Lacay, Sherlyn D.**	Supply Technician	Procurement & Supply	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
135	**Laniyo, Jon Climaco**	Warehouseman	Pacific Trading Co.,LTD.	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
136	**Leemarvin, Sharla**	Sales Clerk	Joeten-All Star Garapan	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
137	**Leon Guerrero, Nathan Drew Mitchell H.**	Office Clerk	DCCA-Secretary's Ofc.Capitol Hill	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
138	**Leon Guerrero, Vince Koki N.**	Licensing Clerk	DPS-BMV	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
139	**Limes, Elaine Margarita D.**	Cashier	Hafa Adai-Garapan	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
140	**Lisua, Mathew Marty W.**	Office Clerk	CMS-Gualo Rai	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
141	**Lisua, Vincent Simion W.**	Registration Clerk	Election Commission	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
142	**Litulumar, Stephen Austin R.**	Administrative Assistant	OPA	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
143	**Liwag, Ana L.**	Recreation Worker	Garapan Community Center-Rep.Felicidad T. Ogumoro	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
144	**Lizama, Benedicto D.,Jr.**	Account Clerk	Hyatt Regency Saipan-Finance	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
145	**Lizama, John Paul B.**	Customer Service	Pacific Airport Services,Inc.	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
146	**Lizama, Jose C.,Jr.**	Office Clerk	DPH-Medical Referral	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
147	**Lizama, Kraven Trey Q.**	Warehouseman	Pacific Trading Co.,LTD.	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
148	**Lizama, Mercedes Ann Marie S.**	Office Clerk	DPS-Traffic	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
149	**Lucas, Petrina Delorie L.**	Library Aide	Joeten Kiyu Public Library	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
150	**Lumaug, Maria Lowedeth L.**	Office Clerk	Bank of Saipan	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
151	**Macaranas, Germaine Margaret Rose C.**	Guest Service Officer	Hyatt Regency Saipan-Communication Centre	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
152	**Magofna, John Jacob S.**	Warehouse Clerk	DPH-Material Management,Lower Base	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
153	**Mality, Shawna Lynn S.**	HR Clerk	Saipan Stevedore Co.Inc.	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
154	**Manahane, Marvin H.,Jr.**	Stock Clerk	Joeten Kagman Market	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
155	**Manibusan, John D.,Jr.**	Supply Technician	DPH-Material Management,Lower Base	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
156	**Maralit, Jerie P.**	HR Clerk	NMC-Human Resources	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
157	**Maralit, Jirelle P.**	Clerk	Sorenson Production,ABC7	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
158	**Maratita, Joey Daniel T.**	Customer Service	Pacific Airport Services,Inc.	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
159	**Maratita, Richard C.,Jr.**	Administrative Assistant	Pacific Trading Co.,LTD.	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
160	**Maratita, Roman John C.**	Supply Technician	Procurement & Supply	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
161	**Meipen, Pedrus Mauris G.**	Office Clerk	Saipan SDA Clinic	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
162	**Mencher, Macklene Michael**	Administrative Assistant	CRM	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
163	**Mindanao, Jennifer B.**	Account Clerk	CHC-Accounts Receivable	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
164	**Murig, Adrian John P.,Jr.**	Office Clerk	Saipan Mayor's Office	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
165	**Nakayama, Jay**	Sales Clerk	Joeten Borderline,Garapan	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
166	**Nartin, Narnin**	Guest Service Officer	Hyatt Regency Saipan	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
167	**Nartin, Narphine M.**	Stock Clerk	Joeten Susupe Market	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
168	**Nekaikes, Jaclyn L.**	Office Clerk	DPH-Billing Office	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
169	**Norita, Catrina K.**	Administrative Assistant	Saipan Stevedore Co.Inc.	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
170	**Norita, Lori Lynn K.**	Registration Clerk	Election Commission	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
171	**Norita, Manuel R.**	Receptionist	DPH-Medicaid	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
172	**Norita, Sandy N.**	Stock Clerk	Joeten Susupe Market	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
173	**Ocaya, Allan T.**	Office Clerk	DPH-Medical Records	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
174	**Ocaya, James Ali P.**	Materials Clerk Store	Hyatt Regency Saipan	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
175	**Ogoy, Jovillelyn A.**	Administrative Assistant	NMC-Nursing Department	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
176	**Oscar, Nancy Anastacio**	Research Assistant	NMC-SSFA	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
177	**Pangelinan, Nathaniel Anthony**	Permit Clerk	CRM	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
178	**Pascual, Kyle Jahreil P.**	Computer Lab Aide	NMC-Computer Lab	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
179	**Paul, Alfred M.**	Library Aide	Joeten Kiyu Public Library	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
180	**Peter, Mario F.**	Office Clerk	DCCA-NAP	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
181	**Phillip, Lovemie R.**	Office Clerk	Joeten ICT Main Office	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
182	**Prado, Bobison R.,Jr.**	Kitchen Helper	J.E.T. Holdings,J's Gualo Rai	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
183	**Pua, Ann Margret DLG.**	Registration Clerk	DPH-Business Office	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
184	**Quichocho, Norman A.**	Stock Clerk	Joeten Dandan Market	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
185	**Quintero, Sergio Anton**	Customer Service	Pacific Airport Services,Inc.	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
186	**Quitugua, Francisco C.**	Administrative Assistant	Pacific Trading Co.,LTD.	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
187	**Ramangmou, Frankie A.,Jr.**	Sales Clerk	YCO Saipan,Garapan	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
188	**Ramangmou, Giltinan A.**	Sales Clerk	YCO Saipan,Liberty Plaza	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
189	**Rangamar, Jacqueline Juliet D.**	Registration Clerk	DPH-Business Office	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
190	**Rasa, Lance B.**	Office Clerk	CPA-Ports Police(Airport)	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
191	**Reyes, Albert John P.**	Community Worker	Northern Is. Mayor's Office	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
192	**Reyes, EstebeAnn Karmin A.**	Fast Food Worker	Subway	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
193	**Reyes, Larissa Marie M.**	Account Clerk	DPL-Finance Division	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
194	**Reyes, Ricky R.**	Administrative Assistant	Division of Customs-Seaport	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
195	**Rios, Abel Taman**	Dining Room Attendant	Aqua Resort Club	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
196	**Rios, Estezna Ain**	Permit Clerk	CRM	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
197	**Rios, Jack Daniel A.**	Customs Trainee	Division of Customs-Seaport	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
198	**Rios, Keolani Rose P.**	Guest Service Officer	Hyatt Regency Saipan-Club Elan	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
199	**Rios, Moses A.,Jr.**	Permit Clerk	CRM	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
200	**Rios, Riomoso Abramson A.**	Merchandising Clerk	D&Q Saipan,Co.,Ltd	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
201	**Riungel, Ricky Joe N.**	Warehouseman	Pacific Trading Co.,LTD.	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
202	**Robert, Mary Rose M.**	Office Clerk	DPL-Real Estate Division	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
203	**Rosal, Donalyn J.**	Waitstaff	Hyatt Regency Saipan	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
204	**Ruben, Glenn Anthony M.,Jr.**	Recreation Worker	Garapan Community Center	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
205	**Rudolph, RJ**	Sales Clerk	Joeten Susupe Market	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
206	**Sablan, Frankie E.**	Stock Clerk	Joeten Susupe Market	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
207	**Sablan, Lorie Cassandra T.**	Office Clerk	Bank of Saipan	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
208	**Sablan, Mathew E.**	Produce Clerk	Joeten Susupe Market	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
209	**Sablan, Zack E.**	Waitstaff	Hyatt-Food & Beverage	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
210	**Sachuo, Jeffrey E.**	Registration Clerk	DPH-Business Office	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
211	**Sachuo, Marlin Elizabeth**	Guest Service Officer	Hyatt Regency Saipan-Club Elan	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
212	**Salas, Austin Roy M.**	Stock Clerk	Joeten Kagman Market	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
213	**Salas, Madysen Monique M.**	Stock Clerk	Rep.Ramon Tebuteb	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
214	**Salem, Nevin S.**	Kitchen Helper	J.E.T.Holdings,J's Bowling	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
215	**Sampang, Edsby O.**	Ed Tech	NMC-Distance Ed. Facility	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
216	**San Nicolas, Eugene Michael A.,Jr.**	Administrative Assistant	Division of Customs-Seaport	TUESDAY, July 5, 2011 1PM-5PM
217	**Sanchez, Kayla Rose C.**	Office Clerk	Saipan Mayor's Office	WEDNESDAY, July 6, 2011 8AM-12NOON
218	**Santos, Angel T.**	Office Clerk	DLNR-Secretary's Office	WEDNESDAY, July 6, 2011 8AM-12NOON
219	**Santos, Christopher Raymond C.**	Supply Technician	Procurement & Supply	WEDNESDAY, July 6, 2011 8AM-12NOON
220	**Santos, Jacqueline Simone V.**	Front Desk Clerk	Sorenson Pacific / Phase 1	WEDNESDAY, July 6, 2011 8AM-12NOON
221	**Santos, Jena T.**	Office Clerk	CPA-Ports Police Support	WEDNESDAY, July 6, 2011 8AM-12NOON
222	**Santos, Kayla Natasha T.**	Administrative Assistant	Scholarship Office	WEDNESDAY, July 6, 2011 8AM-12NOON
223	**Santos, Vernon John T.**	Office Clerk	Election Commission	WEDNESDAY, July 6, 2011 8AM-12NOON
224	**Sarahs, Jacklynn N.**	Office Clerk	Public Defender Office	WEDNESDAY, July 6, 2011 8AM-12NOON
225	**Satur, Margie Kai**	Office Clerk	PSS-BOE Administration Office	WEDNESDAY, July 6, 2011 8AM-12NOON
226	**Satur, Mariano Julian L.**	Office Clerk	PSS-Certification & Licensure Office	WEDNESDAY, July 6, 2011 8AM-12NOON
227	**Saures, Tanya L.**	Recreation Worker	Garapan Community Center	WEDNESDAY, July 6, 2011 8AM-12NOON
228	**Secharmidal, Binwei Z.**	Community Worker	Saipan Mayor's Office	WEDNESDAY, July 6, 2011 8AM-12NOON
229	**Selbert, Kenneth Karlo L.**	Stock Clerk	Joeten Kagman Market	WEDNESDAY, July 6, 2011 8AM-12NOON
230	**Seman, Elmano Kimo P.**	Information Services Aide	NMC-IT	WEDNESDAY, July 6, 2011 8AM-12NOON
231	**Siech, Kasper L.**	Customs Trainee	Division of Customs-Airport	WEDNESDAY, July 6, 2011 8AM-12NOON
232	**Simina, Jason**	Office Clerk	DPH-Divisions	WEDNESDAY, July 6, 2011 8AM-12NOON
233	**Singa, Kaylyn Gloria M.**	Registration Clerk	DPH-Business Office	WEDNESDAY, July 6, 2011 8AM-12NOON
234	**Singa, Larry Shane M.**	Recreation Worker	Garapan Community Center	WEDNESDAY, July 6, 2011 8AM-12NOON
235	**Sinounou, Francisco J.**	Community Worker	Northern Is. Mayor's Office	WEDNESDAY, July 6, 2011 8AM-12NOON
236	**Suda, Corina Mae**	Office Clerk	DLNR-Land Registration & Survey	WEDNESDAY, July 6, 2011 8AM-12NOON
237	**Suda, Roxanne J.**	Waitstaff	Hyatt-Food & Beverage	WEDNESDAY, July 6, 2011 8AM-12NOON
238	**Suda, Roxy J.**	Administrative Assistant	Division of Customs-Seaport	WEDNESDAY, July 6, 2011 8AM-12NOON
239


SIZE MATTERS
Midi "Measure" your catch so we can fish tomorrow
Find the right size catch on the new ruler and poster
Are the sizes listed in the poster and ruler a new law?
No, this is not a new law or regulation. The sizes listed are recommendations based on the average size at which our fish begin to produce eggs, this size is called L50.
How does choosing fish that are the 'right size' help the reef?
Harvesting, buying or eating fish below the listed L50 sizes reduces the number of spawning fish in the reef, resulting in less fish for tomorrow. These recommended sizes are not applicable to early juvenile runs (like manahak and l'e).
Where do the size recommendations come from?
The L50 sizes are based on the best available life-history data with input from local and regional agencies and scientific journals.
Check fishing events and conservation offices for rulers and posters!
More at: sizematterscnmi.blogspot.com
Ellyn Tong

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
FOR HARBOR PLANNING SERVICES

RFQ11-GOV-107

The Office of the Mayor and Rota Legislative Delegation are soliciting statements of professional qualifications ("RFQ") from engineering firms to prepare a feasibility study and conceptual design for the development of the East Harbor, on the Island of Rota in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Island of Rota has a long history of an unsafe harbor entrance and berthing area that has hampered shipping and economic development. The legislative delegation of the Island of Rota seeks to explore the feasibility of the development of the Rota East Harbor in order to provide a long-term solution to these issues.

Interested engineering firms are invited to submit statements of professional qualifications. Proposals will be evaluated on experience and information presented in the following areas:

1. Harbor planning, analysis, and design experience (25%)
2. Harbor construction permitting experience including but not limited to environmental assessment; United States Army Corps of Engineers; and local agency reviews (25%)
3. Financial and economic analysis experience (25%)
4. Proposed approach (25%)
5. Cost estimate for identified services (0%)

Proposals should address each item identified in the evaluation structure and follow the structure as identified in the proposal packet that can be obtained from the Office of Capital Improvement, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan CNMI on or after June 20, 2011. Questions regarding the RFQ must be submitted in writing to Mr. James R. Stump, CIP Contracting Officer, or faxed to (670) 664-2408, no later than 4 p.m. ChST July 06, 2011.

Performance time for completion of the study and conceptual design is One Hundred Eighty (180) calendar days from issuance of a Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at Two Hundred Dollars (US$200.00) for each and every calendar day beyond the established completion date.

Discussions shall be conducted with the top three ranked firms. After a selection is made negotiations will be conducted with the highest qualified firm to determine the final fair and reasonable price of the contract for the work to be performed. The successful proposers will be subjected to a responsibility and responsiveness determination in compliance with Section 3-301 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

Proposers must submit details of how the work will be performed and accomplished by the consultants, with the names of the responsible persons identified. Proposers shall also submit a statement of qualifications with resumes and experience of the responsible persons. The total proposal length shall not exceed fifty (50) pages in length, inclusive of resumes and previous project discriptions. Note that a firm which submits a proposal as a prime consultant, cannot also submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, as a subcontractor, the consultant may be included in multiple proposals by different consultants.

This procurement is controlled by the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Procurement Regulations as contained in Title 70 of the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code. Selected contractor will be required to comply with all applicable Commonwealth and federal laws.

Proposals must be sealed and marked "RFQ11-GOV-107, Rota Harbor Feasibility Study Conceptual Design". For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of the proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP, no later than 4:30 p.m. ChST, July 18, 2011. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 4:30 p.m. ChST, July 18, 2011, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of the sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than, 4:30 p.m. July 18, 2011 ChST, and must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than July 27, 2011 ChST. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies of the proposal may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interests of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the sole property of the CNMI government.

/s/ Melchor Mendiola,
Mayor of Rota

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director of Procurement & Supply

Nation

Acquitted Casey Anthony now must rebuild life

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—A big fat book deal? A life in hiding? Motherhood again?

What could the future hold for Casey Anthony when she gets out of jail, perhaps as early as Thursday?

A day after she was acquitted of killing her 2-year-old daughter, Caylee, in a case that was a coast-to-coast TV sensation, many of those who followed the riveting drama are wondering.

"Anthony will always be dogged by the belief that she killed her child," said Lewis Katz, a law professor at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. "She will never lead a normal life."

In a country known for second acts, never is a strong word. But should she be released at her sentencing Thursday, after nearly three years behind bars, Anthony could be hard-pressed to piece together some semblance of a normal life:

■ She may have to get out of town. Threats have been made against her, and online she is being vilified. Nearly 15,000 people "liked" the "I hate Casey Anthony" page on Facebook, which included comments wishing her the same fate that befell little Caylee. Ti McCleod, who lives a few doors from Anthony's parents, said: "Society is a danger to Casey; she's not a danger to society."

■ Her family has been fractured by her attorneys' insistence that Anthony's father and brother molested her and that her father participated in a cover-up of Caylee's death.

AP

In this image made from video, Casey Anthony smiles as she returns to the defense table after being acquitted of murder charges at the Orange County Courthouse in Orlando, Fla., Tuesday, July 5, 2011.

On Tuesday, Anthony's parents rose from their seats without emotion upon hearing the verdict and left the courtroom ahead of everyone else. Their attorney, Mark Lippman, said they haven't spoken with their daughter since the verdict, and he wouldn't say whether they believed she was guilty.

■ Anthony is a high school dropout who, before her arrest at 22, had limited work experience. Her last job was in 2006 as a vendor at Universal Studios theme park. While she once professed an interest in photography, and even found some work in the field, it's not known whether she has skills that could translate into a career.

In a 2010 jailhouse letter to a friend, Anthony said she would like to adopt a child from Ireland "accent and all."

Judge Belvin Perry will sentence Anthony on four misdemeanor counts of lying to investigators while they were looking into their daughter's disappearance. Each count carries up to a year behind bars. At worst, she will serve only a little additional time.

Prosecutors contended that Anthony suffocated Caylee with duct tape because she wanted to be free to party and be with her boyfriends. Defense attorneys argued that the little girl accidentally drowned in the family swimming pool and that Anthony panicked and hid the body because of the effects of being sexually abused by her father.

The prosecutor in the case, Jeff Ashton, told NBC's "Today" show Wednesday that the verdict left him and other prosecutors in shock. "I think I mouthed the word `wow' about five times," said Ashton, who is retiring Friday. A spokesman said the retirement had been planned for some time.

Court orders immediate halt to gay military ban

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A federal appeals court ordered the U.S. government on Wednesday to immediately cease enforcing the ban on openly gay members of the military, a move that could speed the end of the 17-year-old rule.

Congress repealed the policy in December and the Pentagon is already preparing to welcome gay military personnel, said the ruling from a three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco. There's no longer any purpose for a stay the appeals court had placed on a lower court ruling that overturned "don't ask, don't tell," the judges said.

In the meantime, the court order blocks the military from discharging anyone based on sexual orientation, a Pentagon spokesman said, news that brought relief from gay rights advocates who say there are still dozens of gay or lesbian personnel under investigation.

"The ruling ...removes all uncertainty—American servicemembers are no longer under threat of discharge as the repeal implementation process goes forward," said R. Clarke Cooper, Log Cabin Republicans executive director.

The Pentagon will comply with the court order and is taking immediate steps to inform commanders in the field, said spokesman Col. Dave Lapan.

The next step: the official end to "don't ask, don't tell."

Defense officials said the chiefs of the military services are scheduled to submit their recommendations on the repeal to Defense Secretary Leon Panetta on Friday. As soon as the Pentagon certifies that repealing the ban will have no effect on military readiness, the military has 60 days to implement the repeal.

Officials said they believe the ban could be fully lifted by the end of September. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations.

The services have been training their forces on the new law for the past several months. The Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps are largely done with the training, and the Army is on track to finish the active duty training by July 15.

The ruling on Wednesday came in response to a motion brought by Log Cabin Republicans, a group for gay GOP members, which last year persuaded a lower court judge to declare the ban unconstitutional.

After the government appealed U.S. District Judge Virginia Phillips' decision, the 9th Circuit agreed to keep the policy in place until it could consider the matter. The appeals court reversed itself with Wednesday's order by lifting its hold on Phillips' decision. It cited as a reason the Obama administration's recent position in another case involving same-sex marriage that it is unconstitutional to treat gay Americans differently under the law.

"The circumstances and balance of hardships have changed, and (the government) can no longer satisfy the demanding standard for issuance of a stay," the panel said.

Although the stay is lifted, the 9th Circuit scheduled an Aug. 29 hearing to consider whether the government's appeal of the lower court's decision is valid. But it's unclear whether the Pentagon will pursue the appeal, since defense officials already have said they'll stop enforcing the ban.

Ariz. washes away dust deposited by massive storm

PHOENIX (AP)—Arizonans are calling it the mother of all dust storms.

The mile-high wall of ominous, billowing dust that appeared to swallow Phoenix and its suburbs is all that locals can talk about.

It moved through the state around sundown Tuesday, halting airline flights, knocking out power to nearly 10,000 people, turning swimming pools into mud pits and caking cars with dirt.

The sky was still filled with a hazy shade of brown Wednesday as residents washed their cars and swept sidewalks.

Because dust storms, also known by the Arabic term "haboobs," are so hard to predict, Tuesday's took everyone by surprise.

Seemingly out of nowhere, the 100-mile-wide storm moved like a giant wave, the dust roiling as it approached at up to 60 mph. Once it hit, visibility dropped to zero in some areas, the sky turned nearly black, trees blew sideways, and even downtown Phoenix skyscrapers became invisible.

"Just the height of it looked like a special-effect scene from a movie, like a dust storm out in Africa," said Charlotte Dewey, a National Weather Service meteorologist in Phoenix. "It looked so huge, looking at the city down below, it was just specks of light and miniature buildings.

"I have a feeling that people will be talking about this for another week or two, at least," Dewey said.

She said meteorologists were still trying to get exact measures from satellite and radar to figure out how big the dust storm was and compare it with previous ones, but they estimate it was more than a mile high and more than 100 miles wide.

"People who've lived here their whole lives, 30 or 40 years, are saying they've never seen a storm this large," Dewey said.

She said winds from separate thunderstorms in the eastern and southern parts of the state collided somewhere between Phoenix and Tucson and combined with a severe lack of moisture to create the wall of dust. The storm also hit the Yuma area in southwestern Arizona, and far western Arizona.

Haboobs only happen in Arizona, the Sahara desert and parts of the Middle East because of dry conditions and large amounts of sand, Dewey said.

"It's a pretty rare thing to be able to see," she said.

While some Arizonans revel in the strange weather, many were unlucky enough to be outside when the storm rolled in. They got blasted with dust that went up their noses, behind their contact lenses and in their mouths, leaving behind a gritty taste.

Holly Ward, a spokeswoman at the Maricopa County Air Quality Department, said pollution levels skyrocketed. During the storm, the amount of particulate matter in the air reached 375 micrograms per cubic meter, more than double the level federal standards consider healthy.

"You didn't have to go far anywhere in the dust storm to feel the remnants of that dust in your throat and in your nose," Ward said. "If someone already has breathing problems like asthma and bronchitis, this is an incredible health challenge and serious health threat for those folks."

Local hospitals were expecting an increase in a disease known as Valley Fever, a fungal pneumonia, because of the storm. The fungus thrives in the hot and arid Southwest and is found just a few feet beneath the earth's surface; it can be stirred up by construction, wind and other activity.

The dust storm also grounded flights at Phoenix's Sky Harbor International Airport for 45 minutes. At least three flights were canceled and more than a dozen were delayed, while several incoming flights were diverted to Tucson and Ontario, Calif., said airport spokesman Julie Rodriguez.

Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Lynn Lunsford said planes need to be grounded during dust storms because of the low visibility, high winds and potential damage from the dirt.

"If you think about it, glass is made from sand that has been melted, and if you think about the temperature inside a jet engine, it's hot enough to melt sand," he said. "If you can't see through it, you definitely don't want to fly through it."

He likened the storm to volcanic ash that wreaked havoc in the skies in April 2010, when an eruption grounded flights across Europe for days, disrupting travel for 10 million people.

Arizona's dust storm annoyed others who couldn't see out of their car windows or found their pools filthy in the morning. But that created pay dirt at local businesses.

"It's crazy here," said Margaret Viloria, manager of Los Olivos Hand Car Wash near downtown Phoenix. "When we opened this morning cars were lined up outside. It's just been nonstop."

On a typical day, the car wash cleans about 25 to 30 cars an hour. It was averaging 55 an hour Wednesday, Viloria said.

Joe Pinelli, owner of The Pool Service in Phoenix, was also having an "absolutely chaotic" day.

"I don't think I've been off the phone since about 6 a.m.," he said.

Dewey, the weather service meteorologist, said there was a slight chance of blowing dust in the Phoenix area Wednesday and Thursday and a slight chance of thunderstorms the rest of the week.

"As far as if it would be of any magnitude we saw Tuesday, I don't know," she said.

ACROSS THE NATION

Alert: Terrorists look to implant bombs in humans

WASHINGTON (AP)—Airlines are being warned by the government that terrorists are considering surgically hiding bombs inside humans to evade airport security. And as a result, travelers may find themselves subjected to more scrutiny when flying in the heart of summer vacation season, especially to the U.S. from abroad. Bombs-in-the body is not a brand new idea, but recent intelligence indicates a fresh interest in using this method, as people-scanning machines in airports aren't able to detect explosives hidden inside humans. Still, there is no current information that points to a specific plot involving surgically implanted explosives, a U.S. security official said, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss such sensitive matters.

Fort Hood shooting suspect will face death penalty

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP)—The Army psychiatrist charged in the worst mass shooting on a U.S. military installation will be tried in a military court and face the death penalty if convicted, Fort Hood's commanding general announced Wednesday. Maj. Nidal Hasan is charged with 13 counts of premeditated murder and 32 counts of attempted premeditated murder in the November 2009 shooting spree on the Texas Army post. A military judge has not been named in the case, and it was not immediately clear when Hasan will be arraigned in a Fort Hood courtroom. He must plead not guilty because it is a death-penalty case, according to military law.

Nuclear weapons lab reopens as fire danger fades

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—Smoke still hung in the air from a northern New Mexico wildfire that came dangerously close to the nation's premier nuclear weapons laboratory, but life was returning to normal Wednesday as thousands of employees showed up for their first day of work in more than a week. Although the threat to Los Alamos National Laboratory and the town that surrounds it has passed, the largest fire in New Mexico's history continued to burn in remote areas. The fire, which began last month, had forced the closure of the lab along with the evacuation of thousands of residents in nearby communities.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS

DPW11-IFB-014

REPAIR AND RENOVATION OF CHINA TOWN BASKETBALL COURT, SAIPAN

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Repair and Renovation of China Town Basketball Court, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after July 01, 2011 at DPW Technical Services Division 1353 Mednilla Avenue Capitol Hill. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars **($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at DPW Technical Services Division. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Preference is available to US Citizen or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the BID or PROPOSAL if preference is claimed.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on July 20, 2011, 1:00 p.m. local time at the project site located at China Town Basketball Court Behind the Man'amko Center, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on July 25, 2011 to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, DPW 1353 Mednilla Avenue Capitol Hill, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 234-3547.

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW11-IFB-014".** For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 1:00 p.m. local time August 01, 2011. Bidders located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than1:00 p.m. local time, August 01, 2011, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than August 01, 2011, and must be received no later than August 10, 2011. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 1:00 p.m. local time, August 15, 2011. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 1:00 p.m. local time, on August 04, 2011.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulation Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must authorized to conduct business in CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is Sixty **(60)** calendar days upon issuance of an official written Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at One Hundred Dollars **($100.00.00)** per working days for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ MARTIN C. SABLAN
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS

DPW11-IFB-016

Renovation Of Government House #1323 – CNMI Department of Labor

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids proposal **for the Renovation of Government House #1323**, Capital Hill, Mednilla Avenue, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after June 23, 2011 at the Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capital Hill, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars ($100.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. ***Preference is available to US Citizens as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by PublicLaw 15-118, and must be submitted with the BID of preference is claimed.***

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on July 12, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. local time at the Project Site, Gov't Bldg. # 1323-Mednilla Avenue. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on July 19, 2011 to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Acting Director, Technical Services Division**, DPW Bldg. #1353 Mednilla Avenue, or fax to (670) 234-3547.

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW11-IFB-016"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time July 22, 2011. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time July 22, 2011, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than July 22, 2011, and must be received no later than August 02, 2011. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, August 04, 2011, However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on July 27, 2011.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Twenty **(120)** calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at One Hundred Dollars **(US $100.00)** per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ MARTIN C. SABLAN
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement and Supply

Asia

PH senate probes govt donations to bishops

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine lawmakers began investigating allegations Wednesday that some Roman Catholic bishops may have illegally received donations from the government's lotto operator in exchange for political favors.

The chairman of the state-run Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Margie Juico, told senators in a hearing that an audit showed that at least 6.9 million pesos ($158,600) in charity funds were used to buy five vehicles upon the request of several bishops.

Juico said one bishop asked former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo for a brand new car on his 66th birthday in 2009 and received a 1.7 million pesos ($39,000) sports utility vehicle.

Such donations would violate a law prohibiting the use of state funds for religious purposes.

Bishop Juan de Dios Pueblos of southern Butuan city wrote Arroyo saying he won't organize a birthday party in consideration of the "existing (economic) crisis." Instead, he asked her for "a brand new car, possibly a 4 x 4," to help him reach remote areas to promote peace on the main southern island of Mindanao, which is wracked by insurgency.

"I hope you will never fail to give a brand new car, which would serve as your birthday gift to me," he said.

In a followup letter, he said the vehicle was for "spiritual and social services programs."

His letters were addressed to both Arroyo and the charity agency, which indicated that he expected the money for the car will come from the government's lotto operator.

The lotto operator raises funds for health care and other social services. The agency routinely donates ambulances to poor municipalities around the country.

Repeated calls to Pueblos' office went unanswered Wednesday.

Pueblos was among the staunchest supporters of Arroyo, who faced down several coup attempts by disgruntled young military officers and survived impeachment charges of election cheating, corruption and human rights violations during her nine-year rule, which ended last year. She has denied any wrongdoing.

Pueblos has earlier called for the resignation of President Benigno Aquino III, who succeeded Arroyo on a promise to investigate corruption.

Arroyo, who rarely directly responds to allegations against her, was elected a member of the House of Representatives after she stepped down. She was traveling out of the country and her spokeswoman made no comment.

In a letter to the Senate, Archbishop Nereo Odchimar, president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, said any donation to a bishop goes to the diocese and it is not the clergy's personal property.

"Whatever benefit the Catholic Church may draw from the gift is purely incidental," he said, adding they were willing to "face the consequences" of receiving financial aid from government because he said it is channeled to the needy.

Japan nuclear plants to undergo 'stress tests'

TOKYO (AP)—Japan said Wednesday it will conduct "stress tests" on all the country's nuclear plants to ease heightened concerns about disaster preparedness after this year's tsunami sparked the worst nuclear crisis since Chernobyl.

The March 11 earthquake and tsunami in northeastern Japan knocked out power at the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant, sending it toward meltdown in a crisis that engineers are still struggling to contain. The plant operator has come under heavy criticism for failing to sufficiently prepare for the disasters.

The government already ordered exhaustive safety checks on all the country's 54 nuclear reactors following the disaster, and it was not immediately clear what additional measures would be added by the stress tests.

Officials provided few details. However, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Banri Kaieda said the new safety checks will gauge the facilities' defenses against extreme events like big earthquakes.

"There is no change in our view that it is safe," Kaieda said, adding that the tests are intended to offer more reassurance to local residents.

More than two-thirds of Japan's reactors remain offline. Utilities with plants that were shut down for safety reviews after the crisis or that already had been offline due to routine maintenance have been reluctant to restart them because of public anxiety and anti-nuclear protests.

A major on the southwest island of Kyushu last week endorsed the resumption of operations at two nuclear reactors in his city, Genkai, in what would be the first restart of idled plants since the Fukushima crisis. But the latest announcement is likely to delay that process.

The governor of Saga prefecture, where Genkai is located, has yet to add his own approval. He said Wednesday that he would hold off on making a final decision until results of the new test became available, according to Kyodo News agency.

Kaieda said Japan's stress tests will incorporate elements from those ordered by the European Union on the 143 nuclear plants in that region after the Fukushima crisis.

ASIAN BRIEFS

China's censors scrub rumors of ex-leader dying

BEIJING (AP)—Rumors that retired Chinese leader Jiang Zemin was dead or dying raced through China's Internet on Wednesday, sending censors into overdrive to excise them and in turn spurring people to craft ever more cryptic and inventive postings. Searches for "Jiang Zemin" in Chinese or simply "Jiang"—which means "river"—drew warnings on Sina Corp.'s popular Twitter-like service that said the search was illegal. In response posts began appearing about former leader "River" in English. The Internet cat-and-mouse game over the possible death of a former leader underscores how secretive China's Communist Party leadership remains—and the difficulties of maintaining that secrecy in a well-wired society.

Lawmakers arrested at statehood protest in India

HYDERABAD, India (AP)—Police arrested about 50 people, including three lawmakers, during protests Wednesday demanding the creation of a new state in southern India. Shops and offices were shut and public transport was halted for a second day as statehood advocates pressed the government to act on their demand for a new state called Telengana be carved out of Andhra Pradesh. Two state lawmakers and a member of Parliament were among those arrested during the demonstration in Hyderabad, the state capital, said A.K. Khan, a senior police official.

Pakistan panel wants bin Laden family held for now

ISLAMABAD (AP)—An independent Pakistani commission investigating the U.S. raid that killed Osama bin Laden has ordered the government to prevent the al-Qaida chief's wives and children from leaving Pakistan without its permission. Three of bin Laden's wives and several children have been detained since the May 2 American raid on the terror leader's compound in the northwest Pakistani garrison city of Abbottabad. In recent days, Pakistani authorities indicated they were about to send the youngest wife to her native country, Yemen.

UNITED STATES
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
COUNCIL on DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
Developmental Disabilities Basic State Grant Program
Bldg. No 1312, Capitol Hill • P.O. Box 502565, Saipan, MP 96950-2565 • Tel.: (670) 664-7000 • Fax: (670) 664-7030
Email: info@cnmicdd.org • Website: www.cnmicdd.org

The CNMI Developmental Disabilities Council (CNMI CDD) wishes to thank all stakeholders who provided input for the CNMI CDD's 2012-2016 Draft State Plan.
Please review the CNMI CDD 2012-2016 Draft State Plan Goals below and provide your feedback.

DRAFT STATE PLAN - 5 - YEAR GOALS

Area of Emphasis: Transportation

Draft Goal: People with developmental disabilities have access to transportation services for work, school, medical, emergency, and other basic needs.

Draft Objective 1: Continue active involvement with the CNMI Office of Transit Authority to develop a viable Public and Para-Transit transportation system.

Draft Objective 2: Advocate for the development and adherence of the CNMI Mass Transportation and Para Transit Riders Guide to ensure that contents and other applicable requirements within the Americans with Disabilities Act, Federal Transit Administration, and other regulations are complied-with.

Draft Objective 3: Collaborate with the Developmental Disabilities Network and Partners to provide as needed technical assistance and/or training to the CNMI Office of Transit Authority, service providers, and riders.

Draft Objective 4: Advocate for the increase of Para-Transit and accessible vehicles, including back-up vehicles, to accommodate transportation demand and ensure reliable, consistent and accessible services.

Draft Objective 5: Advocate for the increase and improvement of year-round Para-Transit operating hours and services.

Area of Emphasis: Employment and Education

Draft Goal: People with DD have improved access to employment and educational opportunities consistent with their interest, abilities and needs.

Draft Objective 1: Work with the DD Network, Office of the Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR), Workforce Investment Agency (WIA), Northern Marianas College (NMC), Public School System (PSS) and other partners to enhance the existing employment and education referral system.

Draft Objective 2: Collaborate and support programs and entities that help prepare IWDDs qualify for employment and or enhance their education.

Draft Objective 3: Coordinate with the Social Security Office or Social Security Administration Liaison to conduct training on Social Security benefits for people with developmental disabilities.

Draft Objective 4: Collaborate with and support programs that provide Supported-Employment and Self-Employment opportunities and other related services.

Draft Objective 5: Collaborate with the DD Network, NMC, PSS, OVR and other partners to ensure education/vocational transition services are available for people, including students with developmental disabilities and other disabilities.

Area of Emphasis: Cross Cutting

Draft Goal 1: People with developmental disabilities are informed and assured of immediate emergency care in the event of a disaster.

- **Draft Objective 1.1:** Collaborate with partners to advocate aggressively for the CNMI Homeland Security and EMO to develop a comprehensive Emergency Preparedness Management Plan to ensure that people with developmental disabilities and other disabilities are included and appropriately cared for during emergencies and catastrophic disasters.
- **Draft Objective 1.2:** Collaborate with partners to monitor and ensure that the CNMI's Emergency Preparedness Management Plan includes protocols for individuals with developmental disabilities and other disabilities are integrated and coordinated with other emergency management plans and programs of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Government and the Federal Government.
- **Draft Objective 1.3:** Collaborate with partners to educate and inform public and private entities, agencies, local municipality, and those having roles in emergency management, on the importance of proper care of individual with Developmental Disabilities and other disabilities during emergencies.
- **Draft Objective 1.4:** Collaborate with partners to support the development of a comprehensive Emergency Preparedness Handbook for people with developmental disabilities and other disabilities.
- **Draft Objective 1.5:** Collaborate with partners to ensure that the Emergency Preparedness Handbook is integrated and coordinated with the Emergency Preparedness Management Plan.
- **Draft Objective 1.6:** Ensure that both the Emergency Preparedness Management Plan and the Emergency Preparedness Handbook are available online through entities that deal with Emergency situations, the DD Network, Councils, and Emergency Management Office websites.
- **Draft Objective 1.7:** Collaborate with partners so that people with developmental disabilities and other disabilities are informed and are properly prepared to endure the threat of disasters.
- **Draft Objective 1.8:** The DD Network Partners and Office of Disability Policy and Programs and the Emergency Preparedness Task Force will identify a facility that can be equipped with the necessary utilities, and infrastructure that includes the necessary connectivity for special medical and individual support equipment, so that is can be transformed into a shelter for individuals with developmental disabilities and other disabilities during threats of disasters.

Draft Goal 2: Develop a reliable and accessible registry system and database that helps identify and register individual with developmental disabilities and other disabilities so that services can be made more available in an efficient and timely manner.

- **Draft Objective 2.1:** The DD Network Partners, Office of Disability Policy and Programs, Department of Community & Cultural Affairs, Public School System, NMC, Department of Public Safety, Department of Public Health & Environmental Services and those that deal with emergency situations, will indentify and refer people with developmental disabilities for registration into a community disabilities services registry that can also be utilized for emergency situations and other related purposes.
- **Draft Objective 2.2:** The DD Network Partners and Office of Disability Policy and Programs and the Emergency Preparedness Task Force will collaborate in developing a disabilities registry that will list all people with developmental and other disabilities inclusive of their distinct types of disabilities and needs.

Draft Goal 3: All public and private transportation resources for individual with developmental disabilities and other disabilities are identified and prepared for immediate deployment, if necessary, in the event of a disaster.

- **Draft Objective 3.1:** Collaborate with Emergency Preparedness Task Force to ensure that the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities and other disabilities are included in the evacuation component of the emergency preparedness management plan and that it includes specific municipality planning provisions and promotes intergovernmental coordination of evacuation activities.
- **Draft Objective 3.2:** Collaborate with the Emergency Preparedness Task Force to identify all potential transportation resources, public and private, and ensure that individuals with developmental disabilities and other disabilities are included in a viable coordination and management plan for deployment in the event of a disaster.
- **Draft Objective 3.3:** Encourage and support the Council, Emergency Preparedness Task Force and other public and private organizations in promoting the Emergency Preparedness Management Plan through program displays or presentations at various events in the community, media and radio spots.

You may provide your feedback in the following ways:

- By email: info@cnmicdd.org
- By Phone: 670-664-7000/1
- By Fax: 670-664-7030
- By Mail: P.O. Box 502565 Saipan, MP 96950

Upon request, the State Plan information will be provided in alternative formats.

If you have any questions, please contact Ray Diaz, at rdiaz.cnmicdd@gmail.com or at 670-664-7000.

This ad was paid for by DD Basic Grant, Part B Funds.

World

Libya: NATO intensifying bombing to aid rebel push

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)—A senior Libyan official Thursday accused NATO of intensifying its bombing campaign and backing foreign mercenaries to lay the groundwork for an advance by rebels trying to topple Moammar Gadhafi's regime.

Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Kaim told The Associated Press in an early morning interview that the alliance's increased bombings represent the "final phase" of the air campaign. But he said the push will fail and that civilians will be the ones to pay the price.

Kaim said NATO targeted police checkpoints in the Nafusa mountains southwest of Tripoli ahead of a rebel advance toward the village of Qawalish, which rebel fighters claimed they seized Wednesday. They were later pushed back by government troops, he said.

A fuel depot in the key eastern oil town of Brega was also destroyed, Kaim said. NATO said it hit equipment used to refuel government military vehicles.

The intensified campaign, he said, is focused on targeting civilian infrastructure and police checkpoints, and providing additional weapons to rebel fighters.

AP

A boy cycles as people walk under a huge Libyan flag during a rally in the rebel-held city of Benghazi, Libya, Wednesday, July 6, 2011.

"The aim of these attacks is to help the rebels to advance. But I assure you, it will be another failure for them," he said.

Kaim also said Libyan forces have evidence that Colombian mercenaries funded by the West and its Arab allies have joined the rebel fighters trying to advance toward the capital Tripoli from the western rebel-held city of Misrata.

Some of the Colombian fighters had been killed in clashes near Misrata on Wednesday, he said. While Kaim was not immediately able to provide evidence to substantiate the allegation, he said it would soon be shown to journalists based in Tripoli.

NATO began airstrikes against Libya in March. The coalition and its Arab allies are operating under a U.N. mandate to protect civilians.

Some countries in the coalition have interpreted that mandate broadly, with France acknowledging it has provided weapons to rebels operating in the mountains and other countries providing non-lethal aid to rebel-held areas.

Libyan officials earlier this week showed journalists assault rifles and ammunition they claimed had been shipped to rebels by the wealthy Gulf Arab state of Qatar.

Rebel forces took heavy losses in the fighting outside Misrata Wednesday as Gadhafi's soldiers fired more than 500 rockets at rebel positions near the town of Zlitan, west of the city. Dr. Ayman Abu Shahma, a physician in Misrata, said 18 fighters had been killed along with two civilians, including a 12-year-old girl. Thirty other people were wounded.

NATO late last week announced it had begun ramping up its airstrikes on military targets in the western part of Libya. It said it is targeting government forces in cities and along "major lines of communication."

On Wednesday, Anders Fogh Rasmussen, NATO's secretary-general, said the alliance had damaged or destroyed more than 2,700 military targets since its campaign began.

"The momentum is against Gadhafi, his economic strength to sustain war is declining, his generals and ministers are deserting, the international community has turned against him," he told reporters in Brussels. "For Gadhafi, the game is over."

Fighting between rebels and government troops began in February when a popular movement against Gadhafi quickly escalated into armed conflict.

The civil war has been largely deadlocked, with the rebels controlling the east and Gadhafi clinging to large parts of western Libya, but unable to retake rebel bridgeheads there.

Spreading phone hacking scandal touches UK nerves

LONDON (AP)—Britain's phone hacking scandal intensified Wednesday as the scope of tabloid intrusion into private voice mails became clearer: Murder victims. Terror victims. Film stars. Sports figures. Politicians. The royal family's entourage.

Almost no one, it seems, was safe from a tabloid determined to beat its rivals, whatever it takes.

The focal point is the News of the World—now facing a spreading advertising boycott—and the top executives of its parent companies: Rebekah Brooks, chief executive of News International, and her boss, media potentate Rupert Murdoch.

In his first comment since the latest details emerged, Murdoch said in a statement Wednesday that Brooks would continue to lead his British newspaper operation despite calls for her resignation.

The scandal, which has already touched the office of Prime Minister David Cameron, widened as the Metropolitan Police confirmed they were investigating evidence from News International that the tabloid made illegal payments to police officers in its quest for information.

The list of potential victims also grew. Revelations emerged Wednesday that the phones of relatives of people killed in the July 7, 2005, terrorist attacks on London's transit system, as well as those tied to two more slain schoolgirls, may also have been targeted.

The true extent of the hacking is not yet clear—and may not be known for months as inquiries unfold.

Graham Foulkes, whose 22-year-old son David died in the 2005 terrorist attacks, was told by police that he was on a list of potential hacking victims.

"I just felt stunned and horrified," Foulkes told The Associated Press. "I find it hard to believe someone could be so wicked and so evil, and that someone could work for an organization that even today is trying to defend what they see as normal practices."

Foulkes, who plans to mourn his son on Thursday's sixth anniversary of the attack, said an independent investigation is needed because the police were compromised by accepting payoffs from the tabloid.

"The police are now implicated," he said. "The prime minister must have an independent inquiry and all concerned should be prosecuted."

Foulkes also demanded the resignation of Brooks, the former News of the World editor who is now chief executive of News International, the U.K. newspaper division of Murdoch's News Corp. media empire. News Corp. owns a swath of newspapers, including News of the World, the Sun, and the Wall Street Journal.

"She's gotta go," Foulkes said. "She cannot say, oops, sorry, we've been caught out. Of course she's responsible for the ethos and practices of her department. Her position is untenable."

Venezuelans ponder life without Chavez

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Since Hugo Chavez became Venezuela's president more than 12 years ago, he's been a constant presence in the lives of Rosiri de Blanco and her family.

The 41-year-old mother of four has loyally watched Chavez's weekly TV program "Hello, President" and received subsidized food from the popular markets his government set up. When her hillside slum home was damaged in a mudslide in November, she and her neighbors moved into a public housing complex covered with posters of the charismatic leader.

Then, without warning nearly four weeks ago, the ever-present "comandante" disappeared from public sight.

De Blanco and her fellow evacuees in the Conde housing complex are now discussing what would have been unthinkable just a month ago: the possibility of a Venezuela without Chavez.

"Without Chavez, there's nothing," de Blanco said as she and her neighbors prepared to hold a small Mass for the president's recovery in their building's courtyard. "It's necessary to think about him, but it's necessary to have a positive attitude. We are asking God that Chavez leave all this behind him."

Despite the president's return from Cuba on Monday, his health and political future remain very much in doubt as he recovers from a June 20 surgery to remove a cancerous tumor from his pelvic region.

The 56-year-old leader appeared fatigued during his speech to thousands of supporters Monday afternoon from a balcony of the presidential palace. He himself admitted during the address, "No one should believe that my presence here ... means that we've won the battle. No, we've begun to climb the hill. We've begun to beat the illness that was incubated inside my body."

Talk about Chavez's future is buzzing across this bustling capital city, as newspapers, radio programs and conversations on the street weigh questions of succession and the fate of Chavez's socialist-inspired Bolivarian Revolution.

De Blanco said she wept the night of June 30 when she watched a thinner, weakened Chavez reveal his medical state for the first time.

For much of the past month, Venezuelans had the unusual experience of seeing very little of Chavez publicly. He arrived in Cuba on June 8 for what his government said was a scheduled visit.

WORLD BRIEFS

Scandal erupts over power of Mexican union leader

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Elba Esther Gordillo is probably Mexico's most powerful woman, president of the nation's biggest union and a potential kingmaker in next year's presidential election. Now she's fighting allegations from a former ally that she tried to extort nearly $2 million a month from a federal agency in a scandal that has raised questions about how far reform has taken root in Mexico following the 2000 ouster of the long-ruling Institutional Revolution Party, or PRI. The accusation hurled by the former head of Mexico's social security system for government workers comes as Mexico's two largest political parties struggle over how avidly they should woo Gordillo, who has built a uniquely independent position of power as head of the 1.5-million-member teacher's union.

Yemen clashes kill 7 Islamists, 1 soldier

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—Yemeni security forces clashed with Islamist fighters near a southern town overrun by militants, leaving seven Islamists and a soldier dead, officials said, as tens of thousands staged rallies across Yemen calling for the president to step down. Security across the impoverished nation in the southern corner of the Arabian Peninsula, home to an active al-Qaida branch, has largely collapsed since the uprising seeking to oust President Ali Abdullah Saleh broke out in February. Islamist fighters seized Zinjibar and another town in the southern Abyan province earlier this year, and Yemeni troops have sought to push them out.

Egypt denies local fenugreek seeds caused E. coli

CAIRO (AP)—Egyptian fenugreek seeds suspected by European food inspectors to have caused a deadly E. coli outbreak were not contaminated, the Egyptian agriculture minister said Wednesday, citing lab tests. The European Food Safety Authority has said one lot of fenugreek seeds from Egypt was probably the source of the recent food poisoning outbreaks in Germany and France. The EU has banned imports of Egyptian fenugreek seeds until Oct. 31 and directed its members destroy all seeds from "one Egyptian exporter" received between 2009 and 2011.

Science & Technology

Facebook unveils video chat with Skype

NEW YORK (AP)—Quick on the heels of Google's launch of its latest social-networking venture, Facebook said Wednesday that its 750 million users will now be able to make video calls on the site.

The feature will be powered by the Internet phone service Skype. Facebook also redesigned its chat feature, so that the people a user messages the most often show up first.

To make video calls, Facebook users with webcam-equipped computers have to select the friends they want to chat with. In the chat window that pops up, clicking on a small blue video icon brings up the video chat feature. Currently there is no option to video chat more than one person. That feature is available on Google Plus, a social service that Google began testing last week with a small number of invited users.

Facebook is also adding a group chat option. This works much the same way as the group chat on Google Plus. Once you are chatting with one friend, you can click an icon to add more people to the conversation.

Facebook's new products come after a relatively quiet period for the world's largest online social network. Zuckerberg, 27, said the company is embarking on "launching season 2011." Users can expect "a lot of stuff coming out" from Facebook in the next couple of weeks and months, he said at an event at the company's Palo Alto, Calif., headquarters.

Facebook updated its user count—to 750 million users worldwide—for the first time since last summer, when it reached half a billion people. Zuckerberg said that's because "we don't think it's a metric to watch anymore."

Rather, Facebook is paying more attention to how much its users are sharing with one another. That number is growing at a much faster rate than its monthly user base. Currently, people share 4 billion items, such as photos, status updates and links, every day using Facebook.

Without mentioning Google by name, Zuckerberg said that "independent entrepreneurs and companies focused on one particular thing will always do better than companies that try to do everything."

For Facebook, that one thing has been creating an online social infrastructure that other companies, such as Skype, can then add their own products to.

Skype has agreed to be bought by Microsoft Corp. for $8.5 billion in a deal expected to close by the end of the year. Microsoft owns a small stake in Facebook.

Skype failure might be company's fault

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: We have been using the Skype Internet voice and video calling service for more than six months without any problems, but now we can't connect. We can't even sign in.

We've done everything they suggest in the "help" area, such as changing the password and checking the user ID, but nothing works. Skype doesn't offer much customer service. Any ideas?—Tom McClintick, St. Paul, Minn.

ANSWER: Over the past several months, Skype has had several network-level connectivity problems that individual users can't fix.

In early June, millions of users were unable to sign into the service because of what Skype called a network "configuration problem." In late May, some users were unable to sign in because of what Skype said was an easily fixed software problem. In December, Skype blamed a worldwide outage on network connection points called "supernodes."

It's anyone's guess whether Skype's reliability will get better now that it's been acquired by Microsoft in an $8.5 billion deal that was announced in May.

But there are some low-level technical problems related to signing in to Skype that users can solve themselves. You can find Skype's list of potential remedies at http://www.tinyurl.com/3d9vb2s.

If you want additional technical help, you can send a message to the company's customer service department on their website at http://www.tinyurl.com/3elbs7d. You can use customer service whether you're a paying customer, meaning that you use for-pay services such as Skype's computer-to-phone calls, international calls or group video, or a user of its free service to make voice and video calls from one Skype software-equipped computer or smartphone to another.

■■■

Q: I took pictures while on a trip to Ireland and saved them on a disk. But when I try to retrieve the photos on my MacBook Pro they come up as ".dat" files. No matter what software I use, I can't get them back to the ".jpg" format for photos. Any ideas?—Gus Cammaert, Eganville, Ontario

A: Your Mac has confused your photo software by renaming your .jpg photo files as .dat files. But the photos haven't been altered, and switching the file names back should be easy.

Most consumer cameras take photos in the ".jpg" file format, also called .jpeg. The .dat suffix, short for "data," is a generic file name used for everything from photos to spreadsheets.

Try renaming the .dat files as .jpg files; see how at http://www.tinyurl.com/42etgr5. For example, change a file called "123.dat" to "123.jpg". Then see if your photo software can read the .jpg file.

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. *Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.*

Find the answers to most anything

By CRAIG CROSSMAN
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

As a kid, I remember wishing for many things including a magic piece of technology that would answer any questions I could ask it. And not only could I ask it anything, I could do so my mere speaking to it. I envisioned all of the answers just waiting for me on the glowing screen. I even remember asking my parents for it and I also remember my mother's kind smile when she replied that although I couldn't have it right now, someday I would have something like it. My mom was right. I have something like it now and it's on my iPhone.

Google Search is an app that works on most any Smart Phone and it's amazing how quickly it works and how accurately it answers. Actually there are several apps out there these days that do similar things but I really like the Google Search app best so far. After you download it for free on iTunes, you're all set. I especially like how you can configure the app to work when you hold it up to your ear. You hear a small beep and all you do is ask your question.

After you make your query, you remove it from your ear and watch the magic happen. After a short moment, you'll see the waveform of your spoken query disappear and you'll see your question appear typed on top of the screen. Beneath that you will see a series of answers to your question. Usually the first two answers contain the correct response to your question. It's absolutely amazing how accurate it is.

Some of my more recent questions included asking what you call a person who makes wine barrels, when was Easter in 2001, where do they speak Gaelic and what are some brands of smudge-free lenses for glasses. Each and every question was answered accurately and in moments. Google Search also keeps a running tab of all of my previously asked questions for reference just in case I may need to look at the answers again.

Google Search also now has the ability for me to snap a picture using my iPhone's camera and identify the image I took. I have to say that the accuracy of identifying images is somewhat less accurate that the spoken questions but it's still very accurate. Taking a picture of my computer's mouse for example, yielded a series of matching images of the make and model of that mouse including information on where to purchase it. Pretty impressive.

Other example of how I used Google Search was when I couldn't remember an actor's name in a movie I was discussing. It didn't even dawn on me to ask Google Search until someone insisted I was completely wrong about the whole subject. I remembered then to use my iPhone and in a few moments, I simply held it up for him to see the answer. He was so impressed with how it was able to give me answers to anything I asked it that when I saw him again, he was the proud owner of an iPhone. Evidently just that one ability was enough justification for him to become an owner.

Think about it. Now you can carry something with you that can answer virtually any question you ask of it. It only took 40 years to get my childhood wish to come true but I'd say it was totally worth the wait.

Craig Crossman is a national newspaper columnist writing about computers and technology. He also hosts the No. 1 daily national computer radio talk show, Computer America, heard on Business TalkRadio — Monday through Friday, 10 p.m.-midnight ET. For more information, visit his web site at www.computeramerica.com.

It's easy to add icon to desktop

By ANNE KRISHNAN
THE NEWS & OBSERVER

QUESTION: I recently started a Gmail account. Is there a way to get an icon on my desktop that goes to that account?—S.S., Raleigh, N.C.

ANSWER: To create a desktop icon linking to any Web page, Gmail included, just go to the page and click and drag the icon in the address bar (in this case, the red envelope) onto your desktop.

In recent columns, I have referenced LastPass as a solution for storing your Internet passwords and Dropbox as a solution for storing all of your documents and irreplaceable files online.

However, Jeff Crume, a Stump the Geeks contributor and distinguished engineer at IBM, wrote in with concerns. Both services have been in the news recently—LastPass with a potential hack and Dropbox with privacy vulnerabilities.

Jeff's note was so eloquent that I'd like to share it here. He writes:

"I have no direct knowledge of this particular situation (with LastPass), so I can't say whether they were doing a good job of securing user passwords or not, but with the rise of cloud computing services such as this, it serves as a cautionary tale.

"When data isn't stored on a computer you control, it's hard to know whether it is being secured properly or not. In some cases, cloud services offer better security because they have the expertise and technology to focus on the threats in a way that typical users would not or could not. In other cases it may just amount to a case of blind trust in an organization and computing infrastructure that may not be justified.

"When you're talking about storing the keys to your personal kingdom (i.e. the passwords to your bank account, credit card, email, etc.) in a place that is 'out of sight, out of mind,' you hope it's also not 'out of control.'

"My recommendation would be to only use services like these for storing passwords and data that is not sensitive in nature, unless you really know and trust the service provider.

"For instance, passwords for websites that require you to have an account but don't charge for their services and, therefore, don't contain a lot of information about you such as your credit card numbers, are a better candidate for centralized services like LastPass, while other tools that store passwords locally on your own hard drive might be better for passwords to more critical accounts.

"By the same token, Dropbox is great for sharing files that aren't of a sensitive nature, but if you need rock solid confidentiality, it's best not to store your data on someone else's hard drive, as is the case with cloud-based services. Unless, of course, you feel the benefits outweigh the potential downside, which is a decision that will vary from person to person depending upon their tolerance for risk."

Think you can stump the geeks? Send your high-tech question to stumpthegeeks@newsobserver.com. Please include your name, address and daytime phone number. Individual replies are not given.

Off The Wall

Duped: Big Calif. gold nugget actually Aussie

NEVADA CITY, Calif. (AP)—A 6.2-pound hunk of gold was auctioned for nearly half a million dollars in March after a man claimed he found it on his Sierra Nevada property, but it turns out it was actually dug up decades earlier in Australia.

After Jim Sanders' "find" on his property near Nevada City in California's Gold Country made news last year, Australian prospector Murray Cox compared pictures of Sanders' "Washington Nugget" with "The Orange Roughie" he unearthed near Melbourne in 1987, the San Francisco Chronicle reported.

They were an exact match, except the Washington Nugget sold for $460,000 in March and Cox originally sold it for $50,000.

Cox contacted Don Kagin, a coin dealer, and mining geologist Fred Holabird, who together auctioned the nugget for Sanders. The two investigated Cox's claims and determined he was right.

"The parties have mutually concluded that the nugget was from Australia," Holabird said Tuesday in a statement.

As for how Sanders got his hands on the Aussie gold chunk? The dealers said confidentiality agreements barred them from elaborating.

Cox told the Chronicle that he sold the Orange Rougie in 1989 and is not sure how it wound up with Sanders.

The person who bought the gold in March has been reimbursed, and the nugget sold for a smaller price to another bidder.

Despite duping people as to the nugget's origin, Kagin said everyone involved has agreed that fraud charges against Sanders are unnecessary.

"The whole matter has been concluded to everyone's satisfaction," he said.

The unusual gold chunk fetched $460,000 at auction because it was believed to be the largest California nugget left in existence.

While details of the 98.6-ounce nugget's new sale price were not available, gold closed at $1,529.20 an ounce Wednesday.

Lightning strikes twice for NJ's Lucy the Elephant

MARGATE, N.J. (AP)—Who says lightning never strikes twice in the same place? Certainly not Lucy the Elephant.

The national historic landmark on the Jersey shore was damaged over the weekend by a lightning strike that knocked out electrical, computer, alarm and air conditioning systems.

Richard Helfant, executive director of the group that operates Lucy, says Sunday's lightning strike could cost anywhere from $10,000 to $100,000 to fix.

Lucy was also hit by lightning in 2006. That hit caused $162,000 worth of damage to her riding carriage, called a howdah. After that incident, lightning rods were installed. They may have helped limit the damage from Sunday's strike.

The popular 65-foot tall wood and metal tourist attraction just south of Atlantic City remains open and will mark its 130th birthday in two weeks.

AP

Visitors continue to flock to see Lucy The Elephant in Margate NJ on Wednesday, July 6, 2011.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Bicyclists report getting smacked by angry bird

PENDLETON, Ore. (AP)—Bicyclists in eastern Oregon say they're getting whacked on the head by an angry bird. Riders in Pendleton, Ore., told the East Oregonian that a male hawk is divebombing them because they're too close to a nest he's guarding in an old cottonwood tree. Bicyclist Mack Temple says the bird came in from behind like a fighter plane and whacked his helmet. Another rider, Charlie Newhouse, says the attack on his helmet was "like getting hit with a baseball bat." He says the talons went in through the helmet. Bird-watchers say the large bird is a Swainson's hawk. The riders say he's been vigilant for a few nesting seasons, but hasn't been as aggressive as this year. Bird-watchers say the hawk will ease up once his brood learns to fly.

Fake money causes traffic nightmare outside Moscow

MOSCOW (AP)—Drivers who thought they were on the road to riches caused a huge traffic jam on a 10-lane Moscow highway as they scurried out of their cars to pick up what looked like scattered money. But the Wednesday morning chaos on the Moscow Ring Road was all in vain. Police spokesman Arkady Bashirov says "somebody made a stupid joke" by throwing wads of bookmarks resembling thousand-ruble ($35) notes along a stretch of the road circling Moscow. He says sprinkler trunks were called in to wash away the fakes. A similar traffic jam happened last July—but with real money—when two Moscow officials detained with 10 million rubles ($350,000) in alleged bribe money threw the cash on the road.

NYC pet store bans drunken puppy-buying

NEW YORK (AP)—A New York City pet store that's surrounded by bars has banned drunken puppy-buying. Workers at Le Petite Puppy in Greenwich Village say customers tend to stumble in after happy hour and purchase a dog without thinking. Drunken customers now are forbidden to even hold the puppies, because they can drop them. Store owner Dana Rich tells WINS-AM that she instructs people who have clearly been drinking to come back the next day. Employees say they stress how much work it is to own a dog. They say they would rather lose a sale than send a puppy into an unsafe home.

Pennsylvania man's banana car peels through Flint

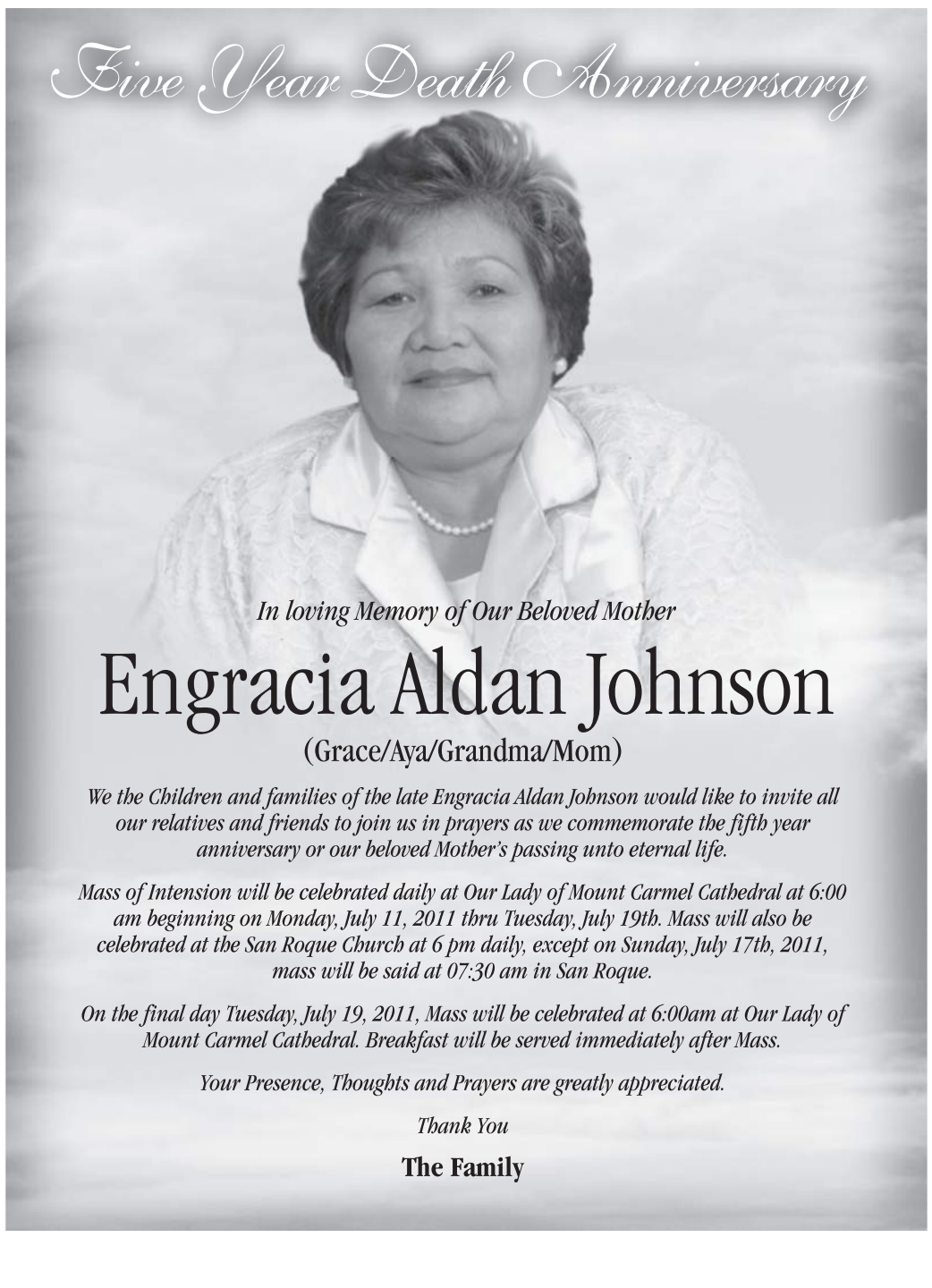
A Pennsylvania man cruised into Flint, Mich., this week in his giant, motorized banana and parked it on the bricks of Saginaw Street. Some looked confused. Many snapped pictures. Banana car owner Steve Braithwaite tells The Flint Journal he had no idea how much he was going to enjoy people laughing and smiling at him. The Coopersburg, Pa., resident with Flint ties brought the former pickup truck back through the area, more than two years after buying the original vehicle from a junkyard in Genesee County's Argentine Township. Braithwaite decided one day he wanted to turn a Ford F-150 into a banana and travel the world in it. So, what he calls his "crazy desire to do something ridiculous" became a yellow-tinged reality. ***(AP)***

Mass. tavern boss happy as clam with chowder title

BOSTON (AP)—A restaurant celebrating its 25th anniversary this year also is celebrating the prestigious title of Boston's Best Chowder. More than 200 gallons of clam chowder were ladled out to thousands of people at a contest called Chowderfest here on Sunday to determine who makes New England's signature dish of clams, cream and potatoes the best. The winner: Clancy's Restaurant in Dennisport, on Cape Cod. Clancy's Restaurant and tavern manager Joan Perez says a lot of passion and late-night hours by the "incredible" kitchen staff went into the chowder. She says the chowder title is especially dear to the Clancy's staff because owner Guy Erickson died in April. The 30th annual Chowderfest was part of Boston Harborfest, a Fourth of July festival showcasing the city's heritage. Six restaurants competed.

Fake scholarship prank draws laughs, scolding

BANGOR, Pa. (AP)—It turns out a Pennsylvania high school graduate's scholarship was just a load of bull. Bangor Area High School grad Ethan Rosenberry says he invented an award when the guidance office passed around forms to seniors to report any awards they had received. His made-up award was named for Jack Hitte (middle initial: S). Rosenberry tells The Express-Times of Easton that he wanted acknowledgment that he'd won jack, er, squat. Rosenberry says the school's administration wasn't too pleased when the award's name was read aloud by the principal. But he still got his diploma after a stern talking-to. The district says it's looking into the prank but declined further comment. Rosenberry is headed to Slippery Rock University in the fall to study political science.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Mass of Intension will be celebrated daily at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral at 6:00 am beginning on Monday, July 11, 2011 thru Tuesday, July 19th. Mass will also be celebrated at the San Roque Church at 6 pm daily, except on Sunday, July 17th, 2011, mass will be said at 07:30 am in San Roque.
On the final day Tuesday, July 19, 2011, Mass will be celebrated at 6:00am at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral. Breakfast will be served immediately after Mass.
Your Presence, Thoughts and Prayers are greatly appreciated.
Thank You
The Family

Life & Style

Harry Potter actors bid adieu to their characters

LONDON (AP)—Daniel Radcliffe will miss being an action hero. Emma Watson will miss being a role model. Robbie Coltrane will simply miss getting to play a good guy.

The cast and crew of the "Harry Potter" movies have been saying goodbye to their characters on the eve of the premiere of the eighth and final film in the magical adventure series.

When they met the press at a valedictory news conference Wednesday, it felt like the last day of school—a warm mixture of release and regret.

Radcliffe, Watson and Rupert Grint have grown up in the films over the past decade, playing young wizards Harry, Hermione and Ron as they progress through Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, and fight the dark forces of Lord Voldemort.

Watson said was it is still "difficult to process" the fact that she won't be playing Hermione again.

The 21-year-old said she would miss the brave, brainy young witch, who was not just a role but a role model.

"I think of her like a sister," Watson said. "She feels so real to me. ... Of course I will miss the people, but actually I will just miss being her.

"I think she made me a better person, and she made me work harder, just as a result of comparing myself to her every day."

Grint, 21, said he felt bereft that the series had ended.

"I have felt a little bit lost without it, really, not really knowing what to do with myself," Grint said. "It's been such a constant part of my life."

Watson

Radcliffe—who appeared on tape from New York, where he is starring in a Broadway production of "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying"—said he would miss the cast and crew, and the stunts.

"I don't really have the natural frame and stature of an action hero," the modestly sized 21-year-old actor said. "So it's kind of a gift for a young actor to be able to do all that stuff. ... Bursting out of the water surrounded by a ring of fire: I will never get to do that again."

Scottish actor Coltrane—who has played the friendly giant Hagrid since the start of the series—said the films were "the first time in my entire career that I've played a thoroughly good man."

"Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2" has its premiere Thursday in London and opens around the world next week. It brings Harry's saga to a close 10 years after the launch of the first film, "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," and four years after the publication of the final book in J.K. Rowling's adventure series.

More than 20 members of the cast and crew—from producer David Heyman and director David Yates to assorted Hogwarts teachers and red-haired Weasley siblings—spoke to reporters Wednesday under the grand neo-Gothic vaults of London's St. Pancras Hotel.

It was a sentimental occasion. Everyone, magic or muggle, paid tribute to their colleagues. Several spoke of the Potter "family" and rejected the idea of the films as a "franchise."

Yates, who has directed the last four Potter movies, said the cast and crew had a strong bond.

'Field of Dreams' gets pigskin sequel in Web video

NEW YORK (AP)—Voices are still being heard in Iowa cornfields, only this time, they want Taylor Lautner to build a football field.

The website Funny Or Die debuted a three-minute "Field of Dreams" sequel Wednesday. The "Twilight" star plays the equivalent of Kevin Costner in a mock movie trailer that quickly drew more than 150,000 views.

The video, "Field of Dreams 2: Lockout," a riff on the NFL labor negotiations, is one of Funny Or Die's most ambitious undertakings yet. It pulled together a number of famous actors, gathered some dozen currently out-of-work NFL stars and utilized filmmaking techniques seldom employed for Internet videos.

In the clip, Lautner builds a football field that attracts locked-out NFL players eager to play. League owners locked out players in March, and negotiations are ongoing. Whereas Costner in "Field of Dreams" was mysteriously moved to build a baseball diamond, Lautner is pushed to erect a pigskin paradise.

When the voice whispers, "Are you ready?" Lautner answers, "For what?" The voice replies: "Some football."

NFL stars who make appearances include Ray Lewis of the Baltimore Ravens, Tony Gonzalez of the Atlanta Falcons and Shawne Merriman of the Buffalo Bills. NFL Network's Rich Eisen shows up to broadcast the action.

Ray Liotta, who played "Shoeless" Joe Jackson in the original "Field of Dreams," returns to play NFL commissioner Roger Goodell. Dennis Haysbert ("24") takes the James Earl Jones role. Even Costner makes a cameo.

"It is safe to say that this is definitely the biggest Funny Or Die video," says director Eric Appel. Appel previously worked for the website and was asked to return from TV work to make the video.

As is typical with Funny Or Die videos, the cast worked for free on the appeal of doing something fun for a few hours. The video was shot over two days last week in Thousand Oaks, Calif.

Southern California, naturally, is far from Iowa. While you do see a few mountains in the background, the cornfield had to be added digitally—an unusually large effect for a Funny Or Die video.

The other major effect involved Costner. He wasn't able to make the shoot but offered to have his few lines shot at his Aspen, Colo., home. A small crew flew there to shoot him in front of a green screen.

Costner was flattered the crew came to Colorado, Appel said.

Lautner said in a statement: "I'm still sore from the Ray Lewis hits, but it was worth taking one for the team."

Just about the only thing that didn't make it into the video was what many "Twilight" fans may have been on the lookout for: Lautner's famously hard stomach. But even a high-production-value Internet video has its limitations.

Said Appel: "You're going to have a buy a movie ticket if you want to see those abs."

Aniston goes raunchy for 'Horrible Bosses'

By LAURI NEFF
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK (AP)—In her new film, "Horrible Bosses," Jennifer Aniston's character is one you haven't seen her play before. She's a dentist who sexually harasses her assistant, complete with lewd dialogue, revealing outfits and outlandish advances.

Aniston

She's the latest actress to take on a raunchy role usually reserved for men, following the recent trail of trash talk from Cameron Diaz in "Bad Teacher" and the cast of "Bridesmaids."

Better known for playing sweeter characters in romantic comedies, Aniston acknowledges that her "Bosses" role is a "departure," but she says she couldn't resist sinking her "teeth into something this juicy."

"The minute it showed up at my door and I read her first scene I was dying to do it," the actress said in a recent interview to promote the film, which opens Friday.

Aniston also admits, however, that when it came time to do the character, she wondered what she had gotten herself into.

"The truth is when you get there you go, 'Oh God, now I have to do this, like, in front of people,'" she said.

Aniston refers to one scene where she's trying to blackmail her assistant (Charlie Day) into having an affair with her using photos she took of him while he was unconscious.

"It's like, you think it's so hysterical and great," she explains, "but then comes the day when you actually have to straddle sweet Charlie Day with his pants down and it's just that day, you're like, 'Oh God. I choose to do this, right?' Yes."

The 42-year-old actress declined to comment on her reported relationship with Justin Theroux, her co-star in the upcoming film "Wanderlust" and someone she's been seen with around New York City.

She does concede she's spending more time in Manhattan these days, amid media reports she just purchased a West Village apartment. But while she loves being in New York, Aniston says she hasn't abandoned her home base in Los Angeles. Instead, she says she'll "be bopping back and forth" for now.

As for reports that she "stole" Theroux from his girlfriend, Aniston says she just blocks out that sort of press as much as she can. "You turn it off. You can't listen to it. It's toxic. It's noise. It's soap opera stories. It's headlines. It's selling magazines," she says.

Aniston says while such news coverage is "part of our culture, unfortunately," she doesn't understand it. "People don't like good news. People want bad news sometimes."

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Zookeeper
Fri and Sat 1:15 4:15 7:15 9:50
Sun thru Thurs 1:15 4:15 7:15
Kevin James, Rosario Dawson
Comedy • Rated PG
Synopsis
Beloved zookeeper Griffin Keyes (Kevin James) decides to quit his job to dive into the dating pool, and finds that his animal friends have been harboring an incredible secret in this comedy from director Frank Coraci (The Wedding Singer, Click). Griffin is a single guy who loves his job at the Franklin Park Zoo. He has a special bond with the animals, yet he can't help but feel lonely each night when he returns to an empty house.

Horrible Bosses
Fri and Sat 1:20 4:20 7:20 9:30
Sun thru Thurs 1:20 4:20 7:20
Jason Bateman, Jennifer Aniston
Comedy • Rated R
Synopsis
Colin Farrell, Jennifer Aniston, Jason Bateman, and Charlie Day star in this workplace comedy about three frustrated employees who hatch a plan to kill their micromanaging bosses, only to find their murderous plot snowballing into disaster. Seth Gordon (The King of Kong: A Fistful of Quarters) directs a screenplay written by Michael Markowitz, Jonathan Goldstein, and John Francis Daley.

Monte Carlo
Fri and Sat 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:45
Sun thru Thurs 1:10 4:10 7:10
Selena Gomez, Leighton Meester
Comedy • Rated PG

Larry Crowne
Fri and Sat 1:30 7:30
Sun thru Thurs 1:30 7:30
Tom Hanks, Julia Roberts
Comedy drama • Rated PG 13

Cars 2
Fri and Sat 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:35
Sun thru Thurs 1:05 4:05 7:05
Owen Wilson, John Turturro
Children's/family • Rated PG

Transformers: Dark of the Moon
Fri and Sat 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
Sun thru Thurs 1:00 4:00 7:00
Shia LaBeouf, Josh Duhamel
Action, Science fiction • Rated PG 13

Bad Teacher
Fri and Sat 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:40
Sun thru Thurs 1:25 4:25 7:25
Cameron Diaz, Justin Timberlake
Comedy • Rated R

Green Lantern
Fri and Sat 4:30 9:55
Sun thru Thurs 4:30
Ryan Reynolds, Blake Lively
Action • Rated PG 13

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Bret Michaels suit over Tonys accident moved to NY

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Bret Michaels' lawsuit over an accident at the 2009 Tony Awards that the singer claims nearly killed him should be heard in New York where the accident happened, a federal judge in Los Angeles has ruled.

Michaels

It makes more sense for the case—which stems from Michaels being hit in the head by a set piece after performing at Radio City Music Hall—to be handled by a federal court in Manhattan, U.S. District Judge Dolly Gee wrote in a ruling Tuesday.

The Poison frontman sued CBS Broadcasting and Tony organizers in March in Los Angeles, claiming the accident contributed to a brain hemorrhage that nearly killed him. His attorneys argued the case should be heard on the West Coast since Michaels lives in Los Angeles and Arizona, as do some witnesses, including his manager and other workers.

Gee agreed with attorneys for Tony Awards Productions that much of the potential evidence and the vast majority of witnesses—including actors and production workers on the awards show—are in New York.

Michaels' attorney Alex Weingarten said the ruling doesn't impact the singer's case. "The damages are the same in New York or California," he said.

Michaels is seeking unspecified damages on claims that show organizers never explained that the set would be changing after the band performed "Nothin' But a Good Time" during the 2009 Tony Awards. The accident broke his nose, and he contends it led to the hemorrhage that later left him hospitalized and forced him to cancel several concerts.

He also claims the show could have prevented the incident from airing, but chose not to. The clip of the accident became a viral hit on the Internet, with more than 27 million views on YouTube when the case was originally filed.

Email messages to spokespersons for the Tonys were not immediately returned.

James Spader hired full-time for 'The Office'

NEW YORK (AP)—NBC has signed James Spader as a full-time cast member of "The Office."

Spader

The network announced Wednesday that Spader will reprise his guest role as manipulative salesman Robert California when the comedy returns this fall.

California will have been hired over the summer as the new manager of the Scranton office of Dunder Mifflin paper company. But within hours, he wangled a promotion to CEO of Sabre, the parent corporation of Dunder Mifflin.

This leaves the branch manager's position vacant again. An actor to replace departed series star Steve Carell is yet to be announced by NBC.

Spader appeared as one of several guest stars on "The Office" this spring. He's previously starred in the drama series "Boston Legal" and "The Practice."

Hugh Grant says police want talk to him on hacking

LONDON (AP)—Actor Hugh Grant says police have asked him to testify at an inquiry into allegations that a tabloid newspaper hacked into the phones of newsmakers, including celebrities and a murder victim.

The actor has often claimed he believes his phone was hacked by News of the World. He told Sky News on Wednesday that he was happy to work with police but also backed calls for an independent inquiry.

Grant wrote an article in The New Statesman earlier this year revealing that he secretly taped a conversation with former News of the World journalist Paul McMullan, who admitted that the tabloid employed people to hack into mobile phones.

The scandal has accelerated this week, raising calls for executives at News Corp., which owns the paper, to resign.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Taylor Swift postpones Southern concerts

ATLANTA (AP)—Artist Taylor Swift says she's postponing concerts this week in Atlanta and Charlotte, North Carolina, because she has bronchitis. Swift said in a statement that she's been advised by her doctor that she's not well enough to perform shows in Charlotte on Friday and in Atlanta this weekend. She said the Atlanta show has been rescheduled for Oct. 1, and the Charlotte show will now be Nov. 16.

'Mao's Great Famine' wins nonfiction prize

LONDON (AP)—A book chronicling a Chinese tragedy under Mao has won Britain's richest nonfiction book award, the Samuel Johnson Prize. Frank Dikotter's "Mao's Great Famine" won the 20,000 pound ($32,000) award at a ceremony in London on Wednesday. The book, described by judges as an "epic record of human folly," beat out five others—including Jonathan Steinberg's "Bismarck: A Life" and Andrew Graham Dixon's "Caravaggio." The prize recognizes English-language books in the areas of current affairs, history, politics, science, sport, travel, biography, autobiography and the arts. Ben Macintyre, chair of the judges, said Dikotter's "meticulous account of a brutal manmade calamity is essential reading for anyone seeking to understand the history of the 20th century."

Adultcons canceled over LA sex show competition

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Organizers of the Adultcon porn convention are pulling two of their shows from the Los Angeles Convention Center. The Los Angeles Times says it's because the center refused to bar other sex-themed gatherings within three months of the event. About 30,000 people are expected to attend three Adultcons this year, but there will be only one next year. The Convention Center also booked the Exxxotica show—which like Adultcon charges an entrance fee to meet porn stars—and the Everything to Do With Sex Show, which offers speakers, seminars and sex toys. Adultcon Vice President Renaud West says too many shows confuse the public and are bad business. But Convention Center managers say they believe there's enough demand for all three shows.

Huffington Post launches British site

LONDON (AP)—The Huffington Post has launched a website in Britain, giving Europe its first version of the popular news hub. The Huffington Post U.K. has lined up a coterie of high-profile bloggers to bolster its coverage of politics, entertainment, style, world news and technology. Former Prime Minister Tony Blair, Culture Secretary Jeremy Hunt and Sarah Brown, wife of former Prime Minister Gordon Brown, will pen columns along with celebrities like Ricky Gervais. Wednesday's launch is one part of co-founder Arianna Huffington's strategy to expand abroad. It follows the launch of Huffington Post Canada in May. Huffington is also developing a site for France. Huffington was appointed president and editor-in-chief of the Huffington Post Media Group after AOL bought it in February.

Shakespeare company won't skin rabbits in New York

NEW YORK (AP)—The Royal Shakespeare Company has skipped the idea of skinning a rabbit on stage in New York. The troupe back in Britain had an actor skin a dead rabbit as part of a dinner scene in "As You Like It," but won't do it in New York following an outcry from animal rights activists. The company says that while the rabbits used in England were sourced responsibly and killed humanely, it wasn't able to find animals that fulfilled those requirements in New York. The company's Facebook page attracted a heated discussion on the issue, with critics deploring the rabbits' exploitation. But the company says it is "part of a scene illustrating the contrast between court and countryside." The company is presenting five Shakespeare plays until Aug. 14 at the Park Avenue Armory.

Restaurant says it has footage of Picasso thief

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The proprietors of a San Francisco restaurant say they have surveillance footage of a sockless thief who snatched a valuable Picasso drawing off an art gallery wall. Lefty O'Doul's released images Wednesday showing a man walking on a sidewalk carrying a framed artwork under his arm. The restaurant is just a few doors down from the Weinstein Gallery, where police say a man stole a Picasso drawing worth hundreds of thousands of dollars late Tuesday morning before fleeing in a waiting taxi. The gallery says the piece was a 1965 pencil-on-paper drawing titled "Tete de Femme." The man in the video is dressed similarly to a police description of the suspect. Police say he was a well-dressed man in his 30s wearing a dark jacket and pants, large dark glasses and loafers with no socks.

Judge rejects Willie Nelson plea deal in pot case

EL PASO, Texas (AP)—A judge has rejected a plea deal that would have resolved Willie Nelson's marijuana possession case in West Texas with a fine, saying the country singer shouldn't get what she considers special treatment. Nelson was arrested in November after a Border Patrol agent said 6 ounces of marijuana were found on Nelson's tour bus. Judge Becky Dean-Walker told The Associated Press on Wednesday that she rejected prosecutor Kit Bramblett's suggestion that Nelson resolve the case by pleading guilty and paying a $500 fine for possession of drug paraphernalia. Dean-Walker claims the prosecutor "doesn't do that for anybody else." The judge says Nelson should be charged with the misdemeanor marijuana possession, which carries up to a year in jail.

Secretly remarried mom still collects alimony from dad

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My parents divorced 20 years ago. The court approved a mutual agreement that Dad would pay monthly alimony until Mom remarried or one of them died. He has never missed a payment.

I have recently discovered that Mom secretly married her live-in boyfriend 11 years ago, but has continued receiving the alimony without telling my father. Is she committing a crime for which she could be arrested? And is her husband guilty of any wrongdoing?

I am extremely upset over this and want to do something to correct this injustice. It isn't fair. What can I do?

FURIOUS IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

DEAR FURIOUS: Marriage certificates are public records, so get a copy of your mother's and mail it to your father. He needs to stop paying the alimony, and he can sue her in family court for any money she wasn't entitled to. His next move should be to consult an attorney and decide how he wants to handle this.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I apparently have a problem communicating with people. I have had conversations with colleagues, managers, friends—even my girlfriend—and have been told my words were too harsh and made them feel defeated. It's at the point where people are afraid before I even open my mouth.

I don't mean to be cruel. I just speak the truth as it comes to me and I don't sugarcoat things. Some folks appreciate my candor, but it's getting in the way of having decent relationships. How do I learn to communicate differently when I'm just being myself? The words flow naturally out of my mouth. Am I a jerk?

UNVARNISHED IN INGLEWOOD, CALIF.

DEAR UNVARNISHED: You may be grossly insensitive—or you may have a disorder of some kind. (Forgive my candor.) Because you are having difficulty relating to others and it has become a handicap, you should discuss the problem with a psychologist who can help you to gain the tools for better communication.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My wife has a friend who rides to work with her several times a week. My wife is helping "Libby" through a difficult financial time by taking her. The problem is, Libby wears very strong perfume and appears to bathe in it rather than use it sparingly.

The passenger seatbelt and shoulder harness in my wife's car have become saturated with this smell. I have reached the point that I don't want to ride in her car. My wife complains about it as well.

Would it be rude for my wife to ask Libby to cut back or eliminate the use of the perfume? I say we have that right, but my wife is afraid it wouldn't be polite. Please help.

HOLDING MY NOSE IN FLORIDA

DEAR HOLDING YOUR NOSE: Many people are allergic to perfumes, and others develop a sensitivity after frequent exposure. It would not be rude for her to tell Libby that the lingering scent of her perfume has made you uncomfortable—and that she should refrain from wearing it during the commute. (She can apply it at work and ride home with someone else.)

P.S. The car may have to be professionally cleaned and detailed to get rid of (most) of the smell. You have my sympathy.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■■■

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

HERE'S A GOOD MOVIE! "VAMPIRE SORORITY BABES"!
IT SAYS YOU HAVE TO BE EIGHTEEN TO GET IN.
HECK, THAT'S NO PROBLEM! LET'S GO!
THIS IS A NEW ONE.
TWO PLEASE. ...I MEAN, ONE.
7/8

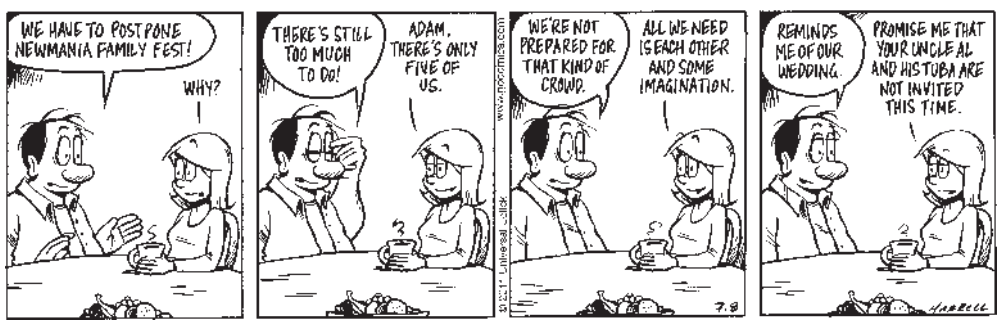
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

YOU KNOW WHAT'S WEIRD? I'VE NEVER HEARD LIZ BELCH
ALL THE TIMES WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER, SHE'S NEVER BELCHED ONCE!
DO YOU SUPPOSE SHE'S SAVING IT UP?
SURE. FOR WHEN SHE MEETS YOUR FOLKS
Distributed by Universal Uclick

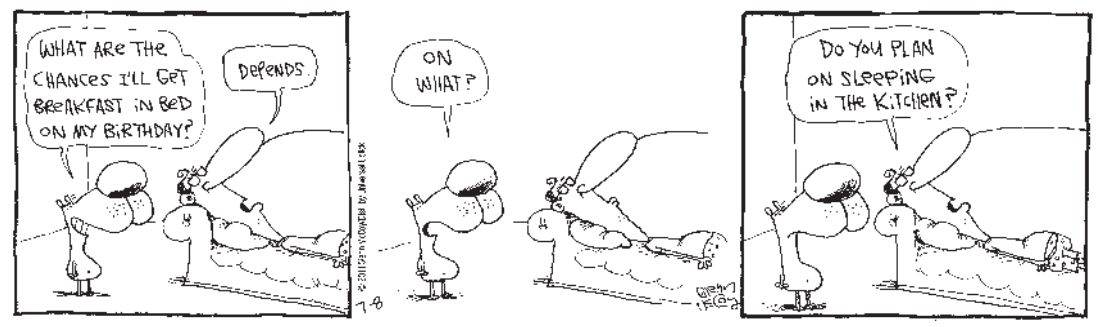
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WE HAVE TO POSTPONE NEWMANIA FAMILY FEST!
WHY?
THERE'S STILL TOO MUCH TO DO!
ADAM, THERE'S ONLY FIVE OF US.
WE'RE NOT PREPARED FOR THAT KIND OF CROWD.
ALL WE NEED IS EACH OTHER AND SOME IMAGINATION.
REMINDS ME OF OUR WEDDING.
PROMISE ME THAT YOUR UNCLE AL AND HIS TUBA ARE NOT INVITED THIS TIME.
7-8

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

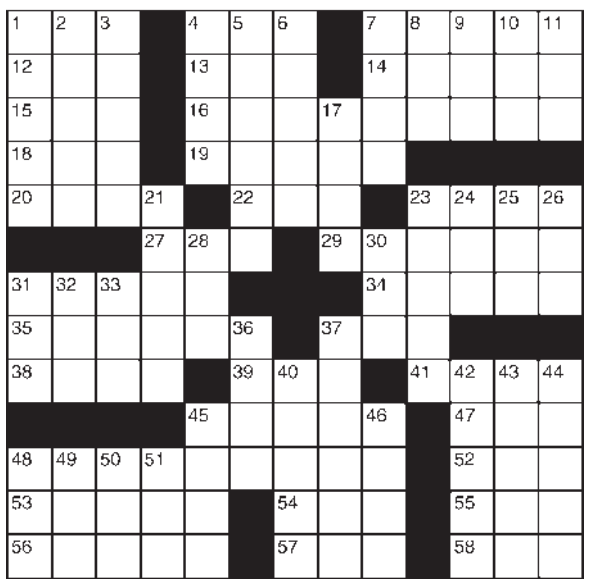
ACROSS
1 Energy
4 Chances, for short
7 Ball VIP
12 Tokyo's old name
13 Scrap
14 Art supporter
15 — "King" Cole
16 Lake Mead structure
18 Discoverer's cry
19 Disrobe
20 Early period
22 Storm center
23 Relaxation
27 Doctrine
29 Skype device
31 Part of an act
34 Lends a sneaky hand
35 Blockage
37 Seek damages
38 Meditation method
39 Wide shoe size
41 Eat in style
45 The Jetsons' dog
47 Pick-up-sticks game
48 Deli purchase
52 Society newbie
53 Wharton or Piaf
54 Over (Pref.)
55 Lemieux milieu
56 High-pitched
57 Give permission
58 — Lingus

DOWN
1 Poison
2 Spud state
3 Engine
4 — and ahs
5 For now
6 Tale
7 Gridlock sound
8 Listener
9 1960s hallucinogen
10 Grazing area
11 Shade provider
17 Panorama
21 Japanese assassin
23 Receded
24 Expert
25 Perched
26 North Sea feeder
28 Vast expanse
30 H-deux-O
31 Cunning
32 Bill's partner
33 Mayo ingredient
36 Interweave
37 Siesta cover
40 Lucy's pal
42 Kind of ink or rubber
43 Dorothy, to Em
44 Fireplace tidbit
45 Wan
46 Leave out
48 Apiece
49 Praise in verse
50 Recline
51 "— be a pleasure"

Solution time: 25 mins.

F	B	I	■	B	A	I	T	■	A	L	M	A
C	O	S	■	U	N	D	O	■	L	E	A	R
C	O	L	A	N	D	E	R	■	L	I	L	O
■	■	A	C	K	■	A	C	C	U	S	E	D
W	I	N	T	E	R	■	H	O	D	■	■	■
E	N	D	■	R	U	G	■	G	E	O	D	E
E	K	E	D	■	M	O	W	■	S	L	U	G
P	Y	R	E	X	■	D	A	D	■	E	T	O
■	■	■	S	I	R	■	R	E	P	A	Y	S
S	P	E	C	I	E	S	■	B	U	N	■	■
W	I	D	E	■	S	Q	U	A	N	D	E	R
A	K	I	N	■	A	M	P	S	■	T	M	O
N	E	E	D	■	W	I	N	E	■	R	U	B

Yesterday's answer 7-8



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Sophia Bush, 29; Toby Keith, 50; Kevin Bacon, 53; Jeffrey Tambor, 67.

Happy Birthday: Not everyone will understand what you are trying to achieve. Don't let a move or a change at home or work cause you to lose sight of your goals. You may face additional responsibilities, but in the end your ability to handle whatever you are given will show someone who can help you advance that you are a worthy candidate. Your numbers are 4, 12, 15, 21, 23, 34, 48.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You'll have plenty to contend with if you complain or refuse to help someone who is counting on you. Problems at home are apparent, and the less time spent indoors, the better. Physical activity or an interesting challenge will help ease tension. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't make a promise you might not be able to keep. You have to look at the big picture and make decisions based on what you need to be happy. A love relationship can be enhanced if you both discuss your needs and work toward a compromise. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Do your best to help others and you will be rewarded by the experience you gain, the people you meet and the possibilities that arise. Your sincerity and generosity will attract all sorts or wonderful results. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You are likely to take on too much or to feel sick due to stress. Try to shut out all the requests that can wait until you are in a better position to deal with them. Someone who loves you will step up and cover for you. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You are ready to make changes that will allow you greater freedom to help those in need. A long overdue trip will allow you time to think matters through so you don't make a mistake. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't let the almighty dollar or the job you don't want to do stand in the way of being a good friend or neighbor. You have the potential to help someone in need. Your contribution will lead to new friendships. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't worry so much about pleasing someone who is difficult. You will get some valuable information through the talks you have with people who share your interests. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't waste time. You will have only yourself to blame if you wait to see what everyone else is up to. Make an effort to show your appreciation to the people you care about most. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Find out what's actually expected of you and what you'll get in return before you make a promise or alter your life to please someone else. A change in your living arrangements may seem drastic at first, but in hindsight you will realize how much you needed the change. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Think with your head, not your heart, when it comes to personal or partnership matters. Don't take on someone else's burden when you should be looking out for your own interests. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Focus on what you can do to improve your home and your lifestyle. Getting together with someone you relate to emotionally will help you decide what you should do next. Rely on your skills to help you formulate a moneymaking plan. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Put your heart and soul into doing the things you enjoy most with the person you like to spend time with. Romance is on the rise, and putting more effort into your love life will pay off. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You question everything and want to find out all you can before you take a chance. You are cautious, caring and responsible.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	1					3		
5		3						
	4		9			1		6
		9		6				
			4		3			
				1		9		
1		7			8		5	
						7		3
		8					9	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 7/08

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

3	5	8	1	9	7	6	2	4
6	7	2	4	8	5	3	1	9
4	9	1	2	6	3	7	5	8
9	1	5	3	7	4	2	8	6
2	6	7	9	1	8	4	3	5
8	4	3	5	2	6	1	9	7
7	3	9	8	4	1	5	6	2
1	8	6	7	5	2	9	4	3
5	2	4	6	3	9	8	7	1

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

EARWIGS **Solution: 6 letters**

T	V	N	S	K	N	I	S	R	E	W	O	L	F	P
E	E	E	C	T	M	A	T	E	R	N	A	L	I	S
X	G	M	R	R	U	O	D	O	R	S	O	N	S	C
T	E	O	P	O	A	O	V	L	F	O	C	A	S	A
U	T	D	N	E	V	C	P	E	R	E	R	N	U	V
R	A	B	E	A	R	I	K	S	R	G	E	E	R	E
E	T	A	R	A	R	A	N	S	S	F	L	D	E	N
L	I	S	W	E	Y	R	T	M	G	A	O	R	S	G
B	O	L	E	P	V	C	O	U	O	U	N	A	L	E
M	N	A	E	E	E	O	T	W	R	C	G	G	E	R
A	V	E	P	S	R	T	C	O	Ⓔ	E	A	L	N	S
R	R	A	N	H	E	T	C	O	Ⓣ	T	T	L	D	G
C	H	I	T	R	S	K	E	D	Ⓘ	S	E	E	E	N
S	H	A	S	E	S	S	I	R	Ⓑ	E	D	H	R	I
T	B	S	P	A	R	A	S	I	T	E	T	S	A	W

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Abdomen, Bathrooms, Bite, Cover, Cracks, Crawl, Creepy, Debris, Elongated, Faucets, Feed, Fissures, Floors, Flowers, Garden, Grass, Gutters, Insects, Maternal, Move, Narrow, Odors, Omnivore, Parasite, Pest, Pincers, Rocks, Scavengers, Scramble, Shape, Shell, Sinks, Slender, Spouts, Temperature, Texture, Thin, Trees, Vegetation, Waste, Wings, Wood

Yesterday's Answer: Surname

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Computer Repair
Only $25 Minor Problem
WE ALSO FIX LAPTOP & USED PARTS
17" Monitor – FOR SALE
233-5641
Open: 7 Days a Week 9:00am - 9:00pm

VACANCY
J.C. Tenorio Ent, Inc., is currently seeking for qualified candidates to fill the following position
HVAC TECHNICIAN
Please apply in person at the J.C. Tenorio Enterprises, Inc. Human Resources Office Joeten Center, Susupe
(NO PHONE CALLS, PLEASE)

Wanted to Buy
Concrete-Barracks, House or Building
Beach Rd. or Middle Rd. - Villages OK
Clear Title - $15,000.00 Cash
Call: 888-2569
michael.dilley@choicephonellc.com

SUV's FOR SALE
SIENNA 2004
SILVER COLOR
7 PASSENGER
CHEVY VAN 2004
WHITE COLOR
15 PASSENGER
Pls inquire with
Mr. Kim at 287-6628

HOUSE FOR RENT
3 BEDROOMS, 1 BATH
FULLY FURNISHED,
WIDE BACKYARD
W/ FENCE LOCATED IN DANDAN
CALL 285-1487

Isabel A. Cruz
P.O. Box 501338 CK
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: 256-1943

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE GUARDIANSHIP OF: KAYSHA AGUON CRUZ Minor Child, by ISABEL AGUON CRUZ Petitioner.	FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 11 - 0287 NOTICE OF HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Appointment of Guardianship for the above-named minor child by Isabel A. Cruz, Petitioner, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court and is open for review at the office of the Clerk of the said Court in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A HEARING of said petition for Guardianship will be held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Guma Hustisia Building, Susupe, Saipan, NMI, before the Honorable Perry B. Inos, Associate Judge on the 20th day of July, 2011 at 9:30 A.M. or as soon as thereafter

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Night-time security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Night-time security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

1 br. furnished apt. near MHS with AC in a quiet area off Texas Rd. 24hrs water & own washing machine, ceiling fans in all rooms. $375, water included. Call Ed 788-6268.

FOR SALE

Construction corporation with good records and a well known restaurant business for sale. For more information please call 483-1123.

CARS FOR SALE

2005 Toyota Matrix; Color: Red; Mileage: 95,800; Excellent Condition! Sale Price: $6,500.
2008 Hyundai Tucson; Color: Green; Mileage: 45,000; Excellent Condition! Sale Price: $11,200.
Interested, Call: 287-7676

FOR SALE

YAMAHA KEYBOARD (PSR S-900) includes: USB Flash Drive w/ program. $1,050.00/OBO. For more info pls call/text Rose(USSP)788-3913

FOR SALE
"Yosuko Restaurant"
2nd Floor of Bobby Cadillac Shop
Please call – 483-6668

WHATZIT Solution: A girl in every port

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB11-DPW/ED-105

SUBMISSION DATE: JULY 25, 2011 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"ENERGY EFFICIENT LIGHTING UPGRADE PROJECT"

COMPLETE COPIES OF BID PACKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER JUNE 24, 2011 AT THE OFFICE OF THE CNMI ARRA STATE LEAD, LOCATED IN THE MARIANAS BUSINESS PLAZA, THIRD FLOOR, OFFICE #315 OR REQUESTED VIA E-MAIL TO **ee_lighting_upgrade@recovery.gov.mp**

ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT SHOULD BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO **ee_lighting_upgrade@recovery.gov.mp** OR FAX TO (670) 664-3016 NO LATER THAN **4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, JULY 13, 2011.**

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT

/S/ MARTIN C. SABLAN
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, PROC. & SUPPLY

/S/ THELMA B. INOS
DIRECTOR OF ENERGY DIV.

/S/ MICHAEL J. ADA
CNMI ARRA STATE LEAD

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB11-DPW/ED-110

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: JULY 26, 2011 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

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Masterson masters Yankees, Indians win, 5-3

CLEVELAND (AP)—Cleveland pitcher Justin Masterson shut down New York for eight scoreless innings to lead the Indians to a 5-3 win over the Yankees in the clash of American League divisional leaders on Wednesday.

Masterson (7-6) struck out six and got just his second win since April. He turned it over in the ninth to the bullpen, but reliever Vinnie Pestano gave up three runs before closer Chris Perez got three outs for his 21st save.

New York's Derek Jeter got hit No. 2,997 of his career and also drew a walk from Masterson, who was backed up by two sensational plays from All-Star shortstop Asdrubal Cabrera in the eighth.

Rookie Lonnie Chisenhall hit his first career homer for Cleveland, which scored two runs in the first off starter Phil Hughes (0-2), but left the bases loaded twice and stranded 13 runners.

AP

Cleveland Indians starting pitcher Justin Masterson winds up gainst the New York Yankees in the first inning of a baseball game Wednesday, July 6, 2011, in Cleveland.

Red Sox 5, Blue Jays 4

In Boston, Jacoby Ellsbury and Kevin Youkilis both had three extra-base hits to power Boston past Toronto.

Boston starter Tim Wakefield (5-3) earned the 198th win of his career, filling in for a rotation that is without Clay Buchholz, Jon Lester and Daisuke Matsuzaka. The 44-year-old knuckleballer allowed three runs and struck out seven in seven innings as Boston earned its sixth win in seven games.

Blue Jays starter Ricky Romero (7-8) gave up six runs in 4 1-3 innings. He surrendered leadoff homers in the first two innings, to Ellsbury and Youkilis, and allowed five straight hits—three doubles—as Boston scored four times in the fourth inning.

Red Sox closer Jonathan Papelbon gave up one run in the ninth but earned his 19th save.

Toronto went homerless for the first time in 14 games.

Angels 5, Tigers 4

In Anaheim, California, Miguel Cabrera homered during a three-run seventh inning which lifted the Detroit Tigers to a win over the Los Angeles Angels.

Cabrera greeted reliever Michael Kohn (0-2) by hitting a tiebreaking, two-run shot; his 18th homer of the season.

Victor Martinez drove in two runs as the Tigers avoided a three-game sweep, having scored just one run over the first two games of the series.

Detroit starter Brad Penny (6-6) settled in after allowing three runs in the first. He gave up six hits over 6 1-3 innings and won for only the second time in nine starts. Jose Valverde worked a perfect ninth for his 21st save.

The Angels lost their first game in five.

Rays 12, Twins 5

In Minneapolis, Evan Longoria had three hits and four RBIs for Tampa Bay, which avoided being swept by Minnesota.

Longoria's single gave the Rays the go-ahead run in the eighth inning, and he added a three-run homer in the ninth. He had been 3 for 28 before the game.

The Rays haven't been swept in a series of three or more games since the season-opening set against Baltimore.

Twins reliever Alex Burnett (2-5) allowed three straight batters to reach in the eighth, capped by Longoria's single. B.J. Upton pushed in the next run with a squeeze bunt, then Sean Rodriguez hit a two-run homer to stretch the lead to four.

Tampa Bay reliever J.P. Howell (2-1) pitched a scoreless seventh for the win.

Rangers 13, Orioles 5

In Arlington, Alexi Ogando allowed four hits over seven innings as Texas completed a three-game sweep of Baltimore.

Ogando (9-3) turned in his second consecutive effective outing after losing three straight starts.

Baltimore starter Jeremy Guthrie (3-11) gave up four runs in the first and allowed six runs in five innings as he took over the AL lead in losses.

Mike Napoli had a three-run homer while the Rangers broke the game open with a four-run seventh. Michael Young and Nelson Cruz also had three RBIs for Texas. Young scored twice, giving him 958 runs for his career, tying Rafael Palmeiro for the Rangers record.

The Orioles have lost eight of nine.

Athletics 2, Mariners 0

In Oakland, California, Guillermo Moscoso pitched seven scoreless innings to help Oakland salvage the final game of the three-game series against Seattle.

Moscoso (3-4) allowed only two singles, striking out five and walking one. He has allowed one earned run in his past 24 2-3 innings.

Scott Sizemore homered in the second inning and added an RBI single in the fifth against Jason Vargas (6-6).

The Mariners had their three-game winning streak snapped.

Royals 4, White Sox 1

In Chicago, Bruce Chen pitched effectively into the seventh inning to steer Kansas City past Chicago.

Chen (5-2) retired the first nine batters he faced and escaped a bases-loaded, no-out jam in the sixth with just one run scoring.

Eric Hosmer homered leading off the second on a ball that just went over the glove of the Chicago center fielder at the wall.

Jeff Francoeur delivered a two-out RBI single in the fourth and hit a sacrifice fly in the sixth to make it 4-0.

Chicago starter Edwin Jackson (5-7) allowed four runs in seven innings.

Marlins 7, Phillies 6

In Miami, Mike Stanton hit a homer in the 10th inning to complete Florida's comeback from an early four-run deficit, giving the Marlins a win over the Philadelphia Phillies.

With one out in the bottom of the 10th, Stanton hit a 2-1 pitch from Danys Baez (2-4) into the seats in left. He had been hitless in his previous four at-bats, striking out twice and grounding into a bases-loaded double play.

The home run was Stanton's 17th this season, and the first walkoff homer of his career.

The Marlins won for only the second time in their past 17 games decided by one run. They also ended a streak of seven consecutive losses to the Phillies.

Florida's Edward Mujica (6-2) pitched a perfect 10th to take the win.

Braves 9, Rockies 1

In Atlanta, Chipper Jones hit a two-run homer as in-form Atlanta downed Colorado.

Dan Uggla added a two-run homer in the eighth and Jordan Schafer had four hits for the Braves, who have won eight of their past nine, including three straight over Colorado.

Atlanta starter Jair Jurrjens (12-3) earned his NL-leading 12th win, allowing one run in six innings. He has allowed no more than one run in four straight starts, leaving his NL-best ERA at 1.87.

The Braves scored three runs in the first off Aaron Cook (0-4) before Jones' homer in the third pushed the lead to 5-0.

The Rockies have lost four straight and are five games under .500 for the first time this season.

Brewers 3, Diamondbacks 1

In Milwaukee, pinch-hitter Casey McGehee hit a three-run homer in the seventh inning that lifted Milwaukee over Arizona.

McGehee, benched three of the previous five games because of a season-long slump, hit his first home run since May.

Brewers starter Yovani Gallardo (10-5) allowed one run over seven innings, helping prevent Arizona from sweeping Milwaukee for the first time. Gallardo, who gave up a home run on his third pitch of the game, struck out six and walked one.

Arizona reliever Joe Paterson (0-2) gave up consecutive singles in the seventh and was relieved by Sam Demel who gave up McGehee's homer.

Nationals 5, Cubs 4

In Washington, Wilson Ramos' suicide squeeze drove in Michael Morse in the seventh inning to lift Washington over Chicago.

Ramos pulled off the tiebreaking sacrifice after missing the signal earlier in the count, when he swung at a Kerry Wood (1-4) pitch with Morse charging home, but managed to foul it off.

Danny Espinosa and Ryan Zimmerman homered for the Nationals, and Carlos Pena and Aramis Ramirez did the same for the Cubs — all four coming with a man on base.

Ryan Mattheus (2-0) pitched one inning to get his second major league win — and second in five days — for the Nationals, whose past 10 wins have either been by one run or in extra innings.

Drew Storen pitched the ninth for his 22nd save for Washington, which has won three straight.

Astros 8, Pirates 2

In Pittsburgh, Hunter Pence had three hits, including an RBI single during a five-run sixth inning which jolted Houston from a slump and set up with victory over Pittsburgh.

Houston took the field after a team meeting that lasted an hour and 15 minutes. The Astros had lost 10 of 11 and have the majors' worst record.

Pittsburgh starter Charlie Morton (7-5) limited Houston to three hits over the first five innings, but seven of the eight batters who faced him in the sixth reached base.

The Astros had six hits and benefited from two errors in the sixth. Angel Sanchez, Carlos Lee, Jeff Keppinger and Clint Barmes also had RBI hits in the inning.

Houston's Bud Norris (5-6) allowed two runs over seven innings to win for the first time in five starts.

Clemens not getting a lot of love from jury pool

WASHINGTON (AP)—One-time baseball superstar Roger Clemens is in the midst of a tedious and humbling process that is one of the most important parts of his trial on charges of lying about drug use—selecting the jury members who will decide his fate.

So far the pitching great hasn't gotten a lot of love from the line of Washingtonians who have been questioned about their fitness to serve on his trial, expected to last into August. There were some sports fans in the group, but most said they don't know much about him.

"If he were sitting there, I would not know who he was," one woman said, as Clemens sat facing her about 15 feet away.

Among those who said he knew a lot about Clemens and his case was 37-year-old Omari Bradley. The former personal trainer and Little League coach said he considers himself a fair person. But Bradley said he had to admit he would have a hard time finding Clemens not guilty after all he's heard in the media about how the seven-time Cy Young Award winner should just admit he used steroids. The judge excused Bradley.

Clemens steadfastly denies the allegations made by his former trainer, who says he injected Clemens with performance-enhancing drugs repeatedly as the pitcher maintained a blinding throwing speed into middle age. Clemens says the trainer, Brian McNamee, is a liar who fabricated evidence against him. McNamee gave federal agents their most important physical evidence in the case—needles and gauze the trainer said he used to inject the star athlete.

Clemens is accused of lying under oath to the House Government Reform Committee in 2008 when he denied ever using steroids or human growth hormone. He faces six felony counts of perjury, false statements and obstruction of Congress.

Prosecutors and the defense read the jury pool a list of people who may be called as witnesses or mentioned at the trial. The list included some of the biggest names in baseball, including others who have been at the center of the steroid scandal, such as Mark McGwire, Barry Bonds, Sammy Sosa, Rafael Palmeiro and Jose Canseco. The list also included baseball Commissioner Bud Selig, New York Yankees General Manager Brian Cashman, former Yankees manager Joe Torre, former players' union director Donald Fehr and several other officials and teammates from the four major league teams Clemens played for.

Jurors were asked about their knowledge of those figures as well as their feelings about the case, baseball, Congress and principles of criminal law. They were asked whether they had scientific training, played organized sports or were baseball fans. One public relations consultant was not. "I can't imagine spending money to watch a sport where guys scratch themselves and spit a lot," she said, drawing a smile from Clemens, who otherwise sat expressionless through most of the proceedings.

The woman said she could still be fair to Clemens, quipping that she doesn't consider spitting and scratching crimes. She was qualified to serve along with five others Wednesday. In addition to Bradley, others excused were a woman with medical issues and another who said she couldn't be gone from work for the duration of the trial.

U.S. District Judge Reggie Walton said he hopes to wrap up jury selection Tuesday morning.

Dahlkvist, Fischer lead Sweden to 2-1 win over US

WOLFSBURG, Germany (AP)—The Americans can't do things the easy way.

Needing only a tie to avoid Brazil in the quarterfinals, the U.S. fell 2-1 to Sweden on Wednesday night, the team's fourth loss since November and first ever in group play at the World Cup.

"After, what I said to the team is, my glass is half-full," U.S. coach Pia Sundhage said. "Even though we lost, we can come out as a winner if we take a different path. ... We really want to play in the final. But we have to play some great games, play some great teams. I really want us to embrace this process. I think the team will get stronger. That's the plan.

"It's a little bit different for me to talk about the final," she added. "That's what it takes when we take a different road."

Lisa Dahlkvist converted a penalty and Nilla Fischer scored on a free kick for Sweden, which won Group C and will play Australia on Sunday in Augsburg. Abby Wambach got the U.S. back in the game in the 67th minute with her first goal of the tournament, but as they have all year the Americans squandered too many other chances and now must Brazil on Sunday in Dresden. Brazil was the runner-up to the Americans at the last two Olympics and to Germany at the 2007 World Cup, and is led by five-time FIFA player of the year Marta.

As the final whistle sounded, Sweden's players rushed onto the field, gathered in a circle and did the dance that's quickly becoming their tradition. They then took a victory lap around the field, delighting the many Swedish fans in the crowd of 23,468 who whistled and cheered.

Sweden's Nilla Fischer, 2nd left, celebrates with teammates after scoring their side's second goal during the group C match between Sweden and the United States at the Women's Soccer World Cup in Wolfsburg, Germany, Wednesday, July 6, 2011.

AP

"It was one of the better matches," Sweden coach Thomas Dennerby said. "To get nine points in the group phase, that's really good."

The U.S. is a two-time World Cup champion, two-time defending Olympic gold medalist and the No. 1-ranked team. But it's had a rough few months since being stunned by Mexico in the semifinals of regional World Cup qualifying, needing to beat Italy in a playoff just to get to Germany. The Americans then lost to Sweden in the opener of the Four Nations tournament in January, and dropped their first game to England since 1988.

But they seemed to have regained their mojo in the first two games of the World Cup, scoring five goals and playing with a looseness and joy that hasn't been seen in recent months.

Still, no offense to North Korea or World Cup newcomer Colombia, the Americans hadn't seen a team as good as Sweden, either.

"We have great respect for the U.S. team but, at the same time, we know we're good, too," Lotta Schelin said.

And they wasted little time showing it.

With German chancellor Angela Merkel watching with the Germany squad, Sweden put the U.S. on its heels early after Amy LePeilbet tripped Schelin in the box in the 14th minute to earn a penalty kick. Dahlkvist took the penalty, curling it into the left side of the net. Hope Solo dived in full stretch, but the ball was just beyond her fingertips.

"I was thinking that she's smaller than me now in this moment," Dahlkvist said. "She's afraid of me."

The goal snapped Solo's scoreless streak at 796 minutes, second longest in U.S. history. It also ended a run of eight shutouts, dating back to March 2010.

Sweden is one of the few teams that can match up physically with the U.S., and the Americans didn't always handle it well. Such as in the 35th minute, when Rachel Buehler was whistled for dragging down Therese Sjogran about 25 yards out. Fischer, filling in as captain with Caroline Seger suspended, hammered a free kick into LePeilbet's thigh. Solo, already moving to her left, was caught off-guard and could do nothing to stop the ball from bouncing into the net.

"It was very unfortunate," Solo said. "I felt like I didn't have a chance to make a play on them, and that's frustrating."

The U.S. pulled back a goal in the 67th when Wambach headed—actually, it was more like shouldered—in a corner kick from Lauren Cheney with an assist from the head of Sweden's Fischer. It was the first goal of the tournament for Wambach and her 10th overall at the World Cup, second among Americans to the 12 scored by Michelle Akers.

"Like I said, if I score and we don't win, I won't be happy," said Wambach, who played despite missing the previous two days of practice with tendinitis in her right Achilles' tendon.

The Americans pushed hard for the equalizer, repeatedly forcing Hedvig Lindahl to bat balls down or make saves. She punched away a hard shot by Megan Rapinoe in the 54th after Rapinoe neatly sidestepped Sara Thunebro, and World Cup rookie Kelly O'Hara missed a wide-open net from about 8 yards in the 86th.

In the first half, Lindahl punched away Cheney's cross to Wambach at the far post in the 29th minute. Three minutes later, Amy Rodriguez had a gimme chip over Lindahl, only to see it bang off the crossbar.

"Until the referee blew the whistle, I really thought we were going to equalize," Wambach said.

Instead, the Americans are facing yet another bumpy road, just as they did in qualifying. At the 2008 Olympics, too. The Americans lost their first game in group play there, then ran off five straight victories, including a 1-0 win in overtime against the Brazilians.

"This team's not going to give up," Solo said. "I believe in this team coming back."

Crashes mar a windy, nervous 5th Tour stage

CAP FREHEL, France (AP)—Crashes, crashes everywhere: Alberto Contador and some other top Tour de France riders tumbled to the asphalt Wednesday in a nervous ride on Brittany's narrow, wind-swept roads.

Most recovered, and a rider who skirted trouble to excel was British speedster Mark Cavendish, who again showed that he's one of the world's top sprinters by leading a frenzied mass dash to the finish to win Stage 5.

Gritting it out through pain of bruises, scrapes or broken bones, defending champion Contador and most of the other crash victims bounced back to finish the 102-mile trek from Carhaix to Cap Frehel along the rocky western French shores on the English Channel.

The top of the standings didn't change. Thor Hushovd of Norway kept the yellow jersey for a fourth day, with a 1-second lead over Cadel Evans of Australia. Frank Schleck of Luxembourg is third, 4 seconds back.

One who didn't make it through was RadioShack rider Jani Brajkovic, who was briefly knocked unconscious in a crash and taken to hospital where he was diagnosed with a concussion and a collarbone fracture.

The promising 27-year-old Slovenian, who quit the race, was but one of the U.S. team's riders to run into trouble.

"It's a bad day for us," said Johan Bruyneel, the RadioShack team manager, bemoaning also that Jaroslav Popovych of Ukraine badly injured his right wrist and scraped up his left knee and elbow.

Bruyneel said Brajkovic was so dazed and disoriented that he couldn't remember the crash: "He couldn't tell us what happened, where he was and on which race."

American veteran Levi Leipheimer, another RadioShack star and a four-time top-10 finisher at the Tour, was also involved in a crash but returned to the course. French time-trial champion Christophe Kern also dropped out.

The stage ran along a picturesque patch of rocky Brittany cliffs overlooking the Atlantic—but it was anything but pretty for many of the riders. Leipheimer complained about the dangers of the tight Brittany roads that often forced the pack to suddenly compact, making crashes more likely.

"These roads don't belong in the Tour, especially 1st week," he tweeted.

At least six crashes marred the stage. Sky rider Bradley Wiggins of Britain and the Netherlands' Robert Gesink, of the Rabobank team, joined Contador as title hopefuls who went down but recovered to finish.

"It was very nervous, and because of that you get a lot of crashes, because there are 200 riders who want to be in front," said Hushovd.

The course was tricky, but so was the finale.

Cavendish, one of the world's best sprinters, collected his 16th career Tour stage victory and his first this year by speeding past Philippe Gilbert of Belgium—who finished second—and Jose Joaquin Rojas in third.

"I am really happy. It was a difficult finish," said Cavendish, who rides with the HTC-Highroad team. "I put everything into it ... If we win, it's not because we're lucky, it's because we're good."

The British sprinter, known almost as much for his powerful legs as his sharp tongue, took aim at unidentified critics who he said expressed doubts about his abilities: "It's always sweet to silence the ignoramuses."

But Gilbert succeeded in making him work hard in the sprint.

"Normally, I try to win by a little-ish margin, just to try and save energy," Cavendish said. "Today, I had to give everything I had. He's taken a lot out of me, so I'll take a couple of days to recover."

Frank Schleck's younger brother, Andy—the Tour runner-up in 2009 and 2010 - avoided the spills and remained 10th, 12 seconds after Hushovd. Contador, who lost time in a Stage 1 crash, is 39th overall, 1:42 behind.

Contador fell at about the 45-mile mark—just a kilometer after Brajkovic fell. With his Saxo Bank jersey ripped over the right shoulder, the Spanish three-time champion took off his helmet briefly, then gave a thumbs-up to signal that he was OK.

"It was very difficult day, with a lot of tension," said Contador, who had scrapes on his right shoulder, elbow and knee. He said he took "a little knock" while braking to avoid one crash, then had his own a few kilometers later.

"When I got back going, 5 kilometers later, my chain came off - so I fell," Contador told French TV, which showed images of him throwing his bike on the roadside at the time. "What matters is, I was able to get back up."

"Yes, it'll be a bad night, of course, but you have to think about tomorrow," he added, suggesting his bruises and bumps might cause him to lose some sleep.

In one of the more dramatic spills, Saxo Bank's Nicki Sorensen bumped into the motorcycle of a race photographer, and skidded on a roadside. The motorbike dragged his bike along the road—and race organizers barred its driver from continuing to cover the race.

A mass crash tangled up France's Sylvain Chavanel and Wiggins. Yet another ensnared Belgian sprint star Tom Boonen and Quick Step teammate Gert Steegmans.

"I kept hearing over the radio, 'Crash! Crash! Crash!', and then I saw guys like Gesink coming back to the peloton all covered in dirt," Evans said. "It was a dangerous day I think."

With his jersey torn over his right shoulder, Boonen struggled through wincing pain behind an escort from teammate Andy Engels, and finished more than 13 minutes behind the main pack.

On top of his injury, Boonen was penalized along with Rojas for an "irregular sprint" during the intermediate sprint earlier in the day's stage, race officials said. The riders were stripped of points used to calculate who wins the Tour's green jersey awarded to the best sprinter.

Andy Schleck summed up the pandemonium.

"The roads in the villages were very small and there was wind coming from every direction," he said. "We went left, right, up, down. It made for a dangerous finale."

"By the end of the day, nearly every team had a rider involved in a crash today."

Pacers make it official, Vogel new coach

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Frank Vogel played the waiting game to become head coach with the same confidence that made him a favorite of both fans and players during his half a season carrying the interim tag.

"They never told me I wasn't going to be the coach, so I just tried to carry myself like I was," the 38-year-old said Wednesday after the Pacers officially made him the head coach.

Vogel took over for Jim O'Brien at the middle of last season, went 20-18 to close the regular season and led the team to its first playoff berth since 2006. He didn't worry about the interim tag until after the season ended.

"Once I took over, I really didn't have time to think about big-picture stuff," he said. "I was just trying to win the next day and make sure I was prepared the next day. Once it all ended, and I realized how close I was, it was just exciting, and I was just hopeful and trying to carry myself the right way."

Vogel takes over a team that has plenty of young talent, playoff experience and significant salary cap space, should the labor situation get sorted out. Danny Granger, at 28, is the oldest starter. Roy Hibbert just finished his third year, point guard Darren Collison and forward Tyler Hansbrough were second-year players, and Paul George was a rookie. The team added local star George Hill in a draft-night trade.

Pacers president Larry Bird made Vogel the favorite to get the job from the beginning of the search, then took his time making the decision official.

Frank Vogel responds to a question after being introduced as the new Indiana Pacers NBA basketball team head coach during a news conference in Indianapolis, Wednesday, July 6, 2011.

AP

"As I stated after the season, I was in no hurry regarding the coach, mainly because I knew I had a good candidate in Frank," Bird said. "But we wanted to get through the draft, and I wanted to have numerous conversations with Frank about a staff that will cover all areas. I feel strongly he is doing that and this coaching staff, as a whole, will help this franchise continue to move forward."

Early in his tenure as interim coach, Vogel said Eastern Conference powers Boston, Miami and Orlando wouldn't want to play the Pacers when—not if—they made the playoffs. He introduced "smashmouth" ball, an approach that focused on attacking the basket instead of O'Brien's perimeter-oriented game. He moved Hansbrough and George into the starting lineup and helped restore center Hibbert's confidence.

His team quickly bought into his approach and the changes.

"I really felt it build up right from the beginning," Vogel said. "I started implementing changes right away. I think there was a belief in what we were doing."

As the Pacers started winning, calls to remove Vogel's interim tag grew.

"I'm overwhelmed," he said. "Every person in this building has been supportive of me, and I'm very grateful for that. I'm grateful for the fan support, and I'm grateful for the relationships that I've built this year and continuing to grow them."

The Pacers played the Chicago Bulls in the first round of the playoffs, losing the series 4-1.

"You find out about people in tough times like that, high-stakes environments like that," Vogel said. "You never know what you're going to see. I was very excited about how this team performed in the playoffs."

Vogel said the playoff berth was an important part of setting up the team's future goals.

"Any team that's trying to reach an elite level just needs to feel it," he said. "You can hear all the stories in the world, but until you feel it, you can't really reap the rewards of taking that step. I think we did that this year."

Union: 'Adequate basis' to question NBA financials

NEW YORK (AP)—The NBA players' association will keep doubting the league's financial losses, since it made inaccurate projections before.

Doesn't matter, the league says, since those projections have nothing to do with the final numbers it turns over to the union and insists can't be disputed.

Wednesday, Day 6 of the lockout, featured sparring by union and league officials over financial information, a day after a report questioned whether the NBA indeed lost money two seasons ago.

Though the NBA says it lost $340 million in 2009-10, a New York Times blog post Tuesday titled "Calling Foul on NBA's Claims of Financial Distress" called the league "fundamentally a healthy and profitable business" with an estimated operating income of $183 million that season.

Union spokesman Dan Wasserman said the NBA projected a decline in revenues that season but they actually rose, so the final losses should have been much less than the league said.

"In 2009-10, the NBA repeatedly offered projections that league revenues would decline as much as 5 percent, or $180 million, while also projecting losses of $370 million. Revenues were actually up in `09-10 and the revenue projections were off by as much as $200 million. Yet, the loss figures were only adjusted by $30 million. So yes, we feel there is more than adequate basis for questioning their projections and financials," Wasserman said.

Because of the projected losses, the league forecast a steep drop in the salary cap for the 2010-11 season, saying it could fall as low as $50.4 million. Instead, it was set at $58 million after the higher-than-expected revenues following a seven-game finals between the Lakers and Celtics allowed the league to finish slightly up.

But that didn't save the league from the overall losses it says are documented in the data it has handed over to the union.

"For Dan Wasserman to suggest that the league's future revenue projection, made before the start of the 2009-10 season during the worst economy in 80 years (which, by the way, turned out to be off by only 3 and a half percent) somehow relates to the veracity of our year-end audited financials is absurd," NBA spokesman Mike Bass said. "Mr. Wasserman's questioning of the league's audited financials based on this missed projection is a complete non-sequitur."

The Times story was based on estimates prepared by Forbes and Financial World magazines. Bass said Tuesday the information was inaccurate, saying Forbes "does not have the financial data for our teams and the magazine's estimates do not reflect reality." The league added it believed Financial World had gone out of business.

"Precisely to avoid this issue, the NBA and its teams shared their complete league and team audited financials as well as our state and federal tax returns with the players union," Bass said. "Those financials demonstrate the substantial and indisputable losses the league has incurred over the past several years."

The league projected losses of $300 million last season after losses of several hundred million dollars in each season of the CBA, which was ratified in 2005. Owners locked out the players last week after they could not agree on a new deal.

The union has frequently questioned the league's financials, acknowledging losses but not anywhere near what the NBA has stated. The players offered to give up $100 million in salary costs annually in a recent proposal for a new five-year deal, believing that was more in line with the true losses.

The story was also skeptical, saying perhaps about $250 million of the purported losses results "from an unusual accounting treatment related to depreciation and amortization when a team is sold." The NBA responded that it uses the conventional and generally accepted accounting (GAAP) approach and does not include purchase price amortization from when a team is sold, with Bass saying "put simply, none of the league losses are related to team purchase or sale accounting."

The league followed up with another response Wednesday, arguing that "the notion that $250 million of losses is due to `accounting procedures' is patently false and so vague an assertion as to be meaningless as a matter of financial analysis."

Because the NBA had such a successful 2010-11 season, with growth in TV ratings, and merchandise and ticket sales, the league has struggled to convince fans it needs the massive financial changes owners are seeking from the players.

But Bass said the league never had a positive net or operating income in the last CBA, and that 11 teams had net losses of more than $20 million in the 2009-10 season. He added 23 of the 30 teams lost money that season. Forbes estimated there were 17.

"We do not know how they do their calculations," Bass said.

NBA BRIEFS

Timberwolves F Beasley ticketed for marijuana

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Michael Beasley's first season in Minnesota was quiet off the court, an encouraging sign for the Timberwolves as they hoped to see him mature and emerge as a go-to player for a franchise that desperately needs one. His first full offseason here isn't off to a good start. Beasley was ticketed for possessing marijuana and speeding in the Minneapolis suburb of Minnetonka last week, police said on Wednesday. Capt. Scott Boerboom said that an officer stopped Beasley around 3 a.m. on June 26 on Interstate 394 after clocking him going 84 mph in a 65 mph zone. He said the officer smelled a strong odor of marijuana coming from the car. The officer allegedly found 16.2 grams of the drug in a plastic bag under the front passenger seat of Beasley's car. Beasley told police the marijuana was not his, but belonged to a friend whom he had just dropped off. According to the report, Beasley cursed when an officer pulled out the bag. The possession charge is a petty misdemeanor that carries a fine of $128. The Timberwolves said they could not comment during the league's lockout, and The Associated Press left a message for Beasley's agent, Jeff Schwartz.

NBA, college basketball player Armen Gilliam dies

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Armen Gilliam, who was part of the UNLV Runnin' Rebels basketball team that made a run to the Final Four in 1987 and played for several NBA teams, has died. He was 47. The Allegheny County Medical Examiner's Office said Wednesday that Gilliam died Tuesday night at the LA Fitness gym in Bridgeville while he was playing basketball. The office said the cause of death has not yet been determined pending an autopsy which is likely to be completed later Wednesday. After college, the Phoenix Suns drafted Gilliam as the No. 2 overall pick in the first round of the draft. Besides the Suns, Gilliam also played with the then-Charlotte Hornets, Philadelphia 76ers, New Jersey Nets, Milwaukee Bucks and Utah Jazz. He retired in 2000.

Wings Travel notches second win

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

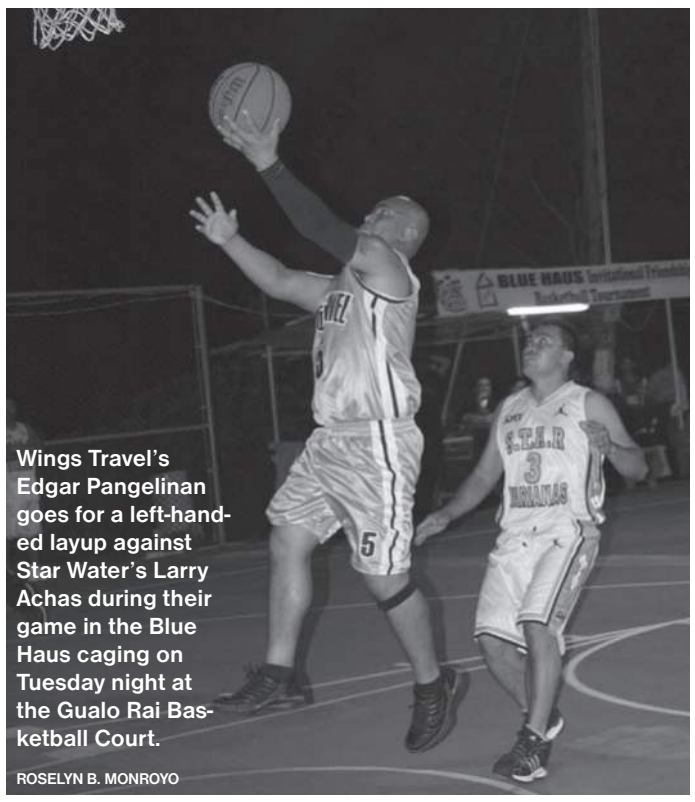
Wings Travel recovered from a sluggish start en route to a 69-56 victory over Star Water in the 2011 Blue Haus Invitational Basketball League on Tuesday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

The win was the second in three games for Wings Travel, putting the team in second place in Pool A behind the unbeaten Inchcape (2-0). The loss was the second in as many games for Star Water and the squad remains at the bottom of the six-team Pool A, sharing the last spot with Micronesian Brokers, Inc. (0-2) and Aldrin (0-2). Pacific Postal/Mekeni (1-0), 8th Division (1-0) complete the field. The league has two more pools with B and C also having seven teams each.

Playing only its third game of the season and first after more than two weeks, Wings Travel took off on a wrong foot and fell behind early, 2-8. Then a triple from hotshot Edgar Pangelinan started things out for Wings Travel. Pangelinan went on to can three more field goals, while Dennis Morales also found his form later on, scoring five points to lift Wings Travel to a 20-14 lead.

The advantage ballooned to double digits at halftime, 37-24, as Pangelinan continued to hit his target and his teammates also stepped in. Five other Wings Travel players lit up the scoreboard in the second canto.

In contrast, only three players scored for Star Water in the second canto. June Pineda and Jomar Tengco nailed four points apiece, while Larry Achas added two markers.



Wings Travel's Edgar Pangelinan goes for a left-handed layup against Star Water's Larry Achas during their game in the Blue Haus caging on Tuesday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Star Water played catch-up most of the way in the second half, but could only cut the lead to as low as five points. Morales made clutch baskets for Wings Travel in the third canto to foil Star Water's repeated comeback bids. The lefty drilled seven straight points at the start of the third period and added six more in the closing stage of the frame to keep Wings Travel on top, 54-45.

Wings Travel preserved the lead and the win in the fourth, as it still outgunned Star Water with the former knocking in seven field goals against the latter's five.

Action in the Blue Haus caging continued last night with Joeten Superstores scheduled to meet Mutombo in Pool B match at 6pm and GPPC and Marianas Water set to collide in the Pool C game at 8pm.

Wings Travel 69 – Morales 18, Pangelinan 17, Yalung 8, Mocoto 8, Cruz 4, Verano 4, Delos Santos 4, Pantola 4, Pablo 2

Star Water 56 – Tengco 18, Gomez 14, Borja 11, Pineda 4, L. Achas 2, Lagmay 2 J. Achas 2, Sacramento 2, Gille 1.

Scoring by quarters: 20-14, 37-24, 54-45, 69-56.

Saipan Soccer School hosts futsal league

The Saipan Soccer School will be kicking off the 2011 Saipan Soccer School Futsal League on July 18 at the TSL Sports Complex.

The inaugural league will have competitions for both men's and women's divisions. Organizers are looking to have a maximum of six teams in the women's field and eight in the men's. Games will be played every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Each match will be played in two 25-minute halves with a 10-minute break. There will be four games every play date with the first match starting at 5:30pm and the last at 8:30pm. Format for both divisions is 5-a-side and winner in each category will be determined after the double round-robin competition. Teams will be awarded three points for a win, one for a draw, and none for a loss.

Registration is only $10 per player and interested teams are encouraged to have as many players as they can in their rosters. Each player must sign a waiver form, while parents or guardians of U18 participants should also sign the waiver.

"The organizers are excited to promote this fast-paced and exciting sport on the island. Futsal requires more ball control and passing in small spaces compared to the regular football game," Saipan Soccer School stated in a press release.

According to Wikipedia, futsal is derived from the Portuguese futebol de salão and the Spanish fútbol de salón (colloquially fútbol sala), which can be translated as "hall football" or "indoor football". During the sport's second world championships held in Madrid in 1985, the name fútbol de salón was used. Since then, all other names have been officially and internationally changed to futsal.

For more information about the league, contact Mae Ito at 235-8747 ext. 148 or 287-3607 or Jersh Angeles at 789-1898. ***(PR)***

SAPONG

From Page 36

best qualifying time when she logged 11.65 seconds on Heat 3. Other heat winners were Japan's Anna Doi (11.83 seconds), Canada's Khamica Bingham (11.72 seconds), the U.S' Myasia Jacobs (11.85 seconds), Brazil's Tamiris de Liz (11.84 seconds), Jamaica's Christania Williams (11.66 seconds), and Nigeria's Deborah Oluwaseun Odeyemi (11.84 seconds). The semifinals of the 100m run was scheduled early this morning.

The 100m race was the only event Sapong was entered in and she was also the CNMI's lone representative in the 2011 IAAF World Youth Championships. Sapong left Saipan last Sunday for the tournament in France and is expected to return on island before the week ends.

MAJOR

From Page 36

never appeared in last year's ASPAC held in Surabaya, Indonesia as the whole team was left stranded as stand-by passengers in the Ninoy Aquino/ Manila International Airport in the Philippines.

Notably, Kim is also a special economic advisor to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and is an avid baseball fan. Originally from Korea, the 10-year Saipan resident witnessed his homeland challenge the CNMI in the 1999 ASPAC Major league tournament held on Rota. Korea won that battle, but Kim declared that he would be cheering for the CNMI in this year's event.

In addition, assistant coach and Rep. George Camacho (Ind-Saipan) personally donated $1,200 to the team for the trip. Other potential donors include Torres Bros. LLC, Juan S. Tenorio-Santiago, and Sen. Ralph Torres (Rep-Saipan).

"We are going one way or another, but are hoping to receive help from some local businesses on island. We would like to thank Mr. Kim and Mr. Gephardt for their kind donations yesterday and hope their generosity rubs off on other companies," said team dad Dave Cepeda yesterday in Kim's office.

Cepeda also hinted that the Saipan Little League needs a leadership overhaul in next year's board elections. Cepeda also placed some of the blame on the lack of parent involvement in the league and admitted that independent fundraising efforts need to start earlier in all divisions.

Moreover, current CNMI District Administrator James Ada's contract expires after this August and the Little League presidency has been in question since former president Robert Guerrero stepped down at the beginning of the season.

Aside from last season's flight plan blunder, this marks the first time that the CNMI failed to send other teams to the ASPAC event. The CNMI Junior and Senior League all-stars all stayed home this year. Although the Major and Big leaguers got the green light, the Senior League All-Stars did not get a chance to defend its title, after sweeping the field last year.

Notably, the Philippines defeated the CNMI Big League All-Stars, 7-1, in last week's ASPAC championship in the Philippines.

Preparing for Guam

The Major All-Stars took a day off from practice yesterday and held a final team meeting last night before departing for Guam at noon today.

"Practices ran smoothly and I know our guys are very excited to get out there and compete," said manager Chel Castro yesterday in Kim's office.

CNMI drew a slot in Pool B and will be paired up against host team Guam, Hong Kong, Korea, and the Philippines, while Pool A has defending champions Chinese-Tapei (Taiwan), Singapore, Indonesia, Australia, Thailand, and New Zealand.

"We see the field as wide open, but feel fortunate that the ASPAC is being held so close to home. We are going there to win and will spend our rest day observing the pool A competitors," said Castro.

As for the pitching strategy heading into the event, "We don't really have one ace, I like to look at it as a three-headed monster. We'll keep a close eye on the pitch count and try not to play overly conservative," said Castro.

The three-headed monster to which Castro is referring is Saipan Little League Strikeout King Erik Cruz of the Dandan Comets and pitching-duo Franco Nakamura and Nathan Camacho of the undefeated champion Jets.

The CNMI plays the Philippines at noon on opening day and then faces off with Korea at 9am on Sunday. They challenge Hong Kong at 9am on Monday before receiving a rest day and finishing its round robin against Guam at 11:30am on Wednesday. The Top 2 teams of each pool advance to Thursday's semifinals where the top team of one pool plays the second place team of the other. The championship and consolation matches will be held on July 15; closing ceremony takes place on July 16.

THREE-WAY

From Page 36

Connie Camacho's wards had a hard time running the breaks and Diaz did a great job against Rachel Abrams in the paint. Abrams missed several shots inside and was scoreless in the first half.

Abrams made it into the scoreboard in the second half, but her baskets could not come in streak and every time the Party Rockers moved closer, Mix-A-Lot always had answers. Pagarao found an ally on offense in Diaz in the second half to hand Party Rockers their first loss in the competition. Pagarao had 12 more points in the second half to finish with 22, while Diaz ended the game with 17 markers.

Jeraldine Castillo was the lone Party Rockers' player to score in double figures with 11.

In the first game, Jeralyn Castillo made two clutch baskets in the homestretch to lift Aye Par Battayi to a close 57-53 win over the Lazy Buttsss.

The Lazy Buttsss had the lead for the last time, 53-51, off Ira Palero's banked shot, with 2:14 left on the clock. Aye Par Battayi went on to silence the Lazy Buttsss in the remaining minutes, while Jeralyn Castillo made a couple of steals and drilled the team's last four points for the win.

The four-point win allowed Aye Par Battayi to recover from a 44-53 loss to the Party Rockers Tuesday night. The two make-up games last Tuesday were originally set for Sunday, but were rescheduled due to the unplayable court.

The second round of the women's league will continue on Monday with Aye Par Battayi taking on Mix-A-Lot in the first game at 5:30pm and the Party Rockers battling the Lazy Buttsss in the second match at 6:30pm.

TUESDAY
First Game

Mix-A-Lot 59 – Pagarao 40, Alegre 6, Iriarte 6, Mesa 4, Hofschneider 3.

Lazy Buttsss 51 – Palero 24, Pialug 5, Javier 4, Joseph 4, Lizardo 4.

Scoring by halves: 30-21, 59-51.

Second Game

Party Rockers 53 – Castillo 13, Abrams 11, Johnson 8, Lebria 7, Samson 6, Gozon 6, Ito 2.

Aye Par Battayi 44 – Castillo 16, Palero 9, Williams 6, Arboliras 4, K. Ito 2, Bartolo 2, Travilla 2.

Scoring by halves: 20-18, 53-44.

WEDNESDAY
First Game

Aye Par Battayi 57 – Mendoza 19, Williams 18, Castillo 6, Palero 6, A. Ito 6, Arboliras 2.

Lazy Buttsss 53 – Palero 21, Javier 11, Pialug 10, Rios 4, Lizardo 2.

Scoring by halves: 29-29, 57-53.

Second Game

Mix-A-Lot 61 – Pagarao 22, Diaz 17, Hofschneider 8, Alegre 4, Iriarte 4, Mesa 2, Palacios 2.

Party Rockers 51 – Castillo 11, Abrams 9, Lebria 8, Johnson 8, Gozon 6, Ito 6, Samson 3.

Scoring by halves: 28-16, 61-51.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	51	34	.600	—
Boston	51	35	.593	1/2
Tampa Bay	48	39	.552	4
Toronto	42	46	.477	10 1/2
Baltimore	36	48	.429	14 1/2

Central Division

Cleveland	46	39	.541	—
Detroit	46	42	.523	1 1/2
Chicago	43	45	.489	4 1/2
Minnesota	38	47	.447	8
Kansas City	36	51	.414	11

West Division

Texas	47	41	.534	—
Los Angeles	46	42	.523	1
Seattle	43	44	.494	3 1/2
Oakland	39	49	.443	8

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	55	33	.625	—
Atlanta	52	36	.591	3
New York	45	42	.517	9 1/2
Washington	45	43	.511	10
Florida	39	48	.448	15 1/2

Central Division

St. Louis	47	41	.534	—
Milwaukee	46	42	.523	1
Pittsburgh	45	42	.517	1 1/2
Cincinnati	44	44	.500	3
Chicago	35	53	.398	12
Houston	30	58	.341	17

West Division

San Francisco	49	39	.557	—
Arizona	47	41	.534	2
Colorado	41	46	.471	7 1/2
San Diego	40	48	.455	9
Los Angeles	37	51	.420	12

Yesterday's Games

Tampa Bay 12, Minnesota 5
Kansas City 4, Chicago White Sox 1
Detroit 5, L.A. Angels 4
Oakland 2, Seattle 0
Cleveland 5, N.Y. Yankees 3
Boston 6, Toronto 4
Texas 13, Baltimore 5
Milwaukee 3, Arizona 1
Washington 5, Chicago Cubs 4
Houston 8, Pittsburgh 2
Atlanta 9, Colorado 1
Florida 7, Philadelphia 6, 10 innings
Cincinnati 9, St. Louis 8, 13 innings
N.Y. Mets 5, L.A. Dodgers 3
San Francisco 6, San Diego 5, 14 innings

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mobil shows 'heart of champion' in two-peat

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Mobil poses for a team photo after winning its second consecutive QQ Car Rental Basketball Cup Invitational League championship last Saturday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Mobil's head coach Marvin Deocares said he personally cherished the team's second consecutive QQ Car Rental Basketball Cup Invitational League championship even more than the first one.

"This year's field was more competitive than last season because the league lowered the age limit to 18 and allowed three Unified Basketball Association players on every team instead of two. Everybody stacked the teams this year and I lost four of my players from the first champion squad. It feels really good to prove the naysayers wrong," said Deocares in a phone interview Wednesday.

Former players Elmer Esdrelon, Manolo Manalo, Edwin Santos, and Sam Fernandez left the team and opted to suit up for other squads. Esdrelon went to Konflikt Ali'i, Manolo went to runner-up Smart Cagers, while Santos and Fernandez went to Blue Haus.

"When I learned they pulled out, I was a little worried and disappointed, but after some more thought, I told my team to help and trust each other, play together and listen to me during the games," said Deocares.

Gyles Ruluked, Marvin Rabauliman, Juan Maratita, and Angelo Fernando joined Mobil to help fill the void.

Early in the season Mobil struggled to gel as a team but the unit came together later on and turned it on big time during the playoffs.

"Heart is this team's biggest strength. They never counted themselves out, even if we're behind by double digits. The player's resiliency surprised me and I am most proud of them for that, " added Deocares.

Deocares has been coaching Mobil for 10 years and has clinched four titles in various leagues in that span.

In addition to the QQ Cup, Mobil has also competed in the UBA and Emon Lodge No. 179's open leagues. Open leagues do not hold roster restrictions.

Mobil is currently setting its sites on the upcoming Unified Filipino Organization league set to start on July 31.

According to Deocares, the UFO field is wide open based on observations he made during recent league meetings.

Deocares expressed hopes of keeping the majority of his players for a run at a QQ Cup three-peat.

In recapping the QQ Cup finals, Mobil only had seven players in the opening match against Smart Cagers.

"I told our bench that we can't do anything about being short-handed, and stressed to them that we have to hustle and not let them blow us out in the first half," said Deocares.

"We managed to keep it a one-possession game at the half, 38-41, and the third quarter went back and forth until the last three minutes. We surged late in the third and we're pleased with our position heading into the final minutes," continued Deocares.

Mobil rebounded well, played smart defense, and did not miss its shots in the critical period, where it jumped out to an 18-point lead. Mobil held it together to take the first game, 90-74.

In the second match, Smart Cagers took an early 7-0 lead from the tip off and held its lead the whole game until the final 30 seconds.

"As we battled from behind I kept reminding them that we were still in the ballgame. I assured them that there is a way to win as I drew up some plays during the timeouts," said Deocares.

Late in the game, Smart Cagers still held the upper hand, but botched a few crucial plays in the deciding final seconds.

"They were up by three points with 30 seconds left and I told our team to just go for two points and make a stand on defense. Instead, my point guard Jun Estolas took a 3-pointer that missed and [Smart Cagers] got the rebound, but we lucked out on a bad outlet pass and capitalized on the turnover," said Deocares.

Deocares also admitted that he was surprised Smart Cagers did not take their final timeout with the lead to set up a plan in the final moments.

"They had the lead and could have set up a play or reminded each other of their options in the final seconds. We were losing and had to foul them and they knew it, but they didn't take the timeout. Sure we were a little lucky, but we still earned it and showed the true heart of a champion," said Deocares.

Estolas won the finals most valuable player honors in QQ Cup's maiden season, while newcomer Ruluked was chosen as this year's finals MVP.

"Gyles played well even when in foul trouble in Game 1 of the finals and continued to showcase his skills in Game 2. All season he consistently stepped up big in a number of high-pressure situations," shared Deocares.

Ruluked also took home the Most Rebounds award and got a spot on the league's "Top Five" roster along with front man Estolas.

"I'd like to thank our supporters, sponsors, the media, and league organizers for helping us build our reputation as a force in the local basketball scene. Thank you to all my players and the Mobil fans for never giving up—and to my critics—sorry, but we did it again," laughed Deocares.

The next QQ Cup season is set to start some time in September or November of this year.

Masters caging eyes August start

The Masters Basketball Federation of the NMI hopes to kick of its 2011 35A, 40A, and 45A divisions this August.

The organization, however, is still scouting for a venue to hold its games as the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium is still under renovation.

MBFNMI board chair Ray Lizama has also contacted league secretary Scott Norman to inquire about the availability of the newly opened Tan Siu Lin Sports Complex on Middle Road.

"If all goes well, we plan to kick off all three divisions this August at the TSL Sports Complex," stated Lizama in a press release yesterday.

40A's Armatech and 45A's Top 45's were last season's champions, while the past 35A season was postponed after its previously scheduled April start.

Entrance fee is set at $550 per team, which includes a jersey top. Teams can also register without uniforms for $350 per group.

Payments should be made to Masters Basketball of the NMI, P.O. Box 504614, Saipan, MP 96950. Updates about the league's start will be released when received.

For further league updates and more information, contact mastersbasketball670@yahoo.com or visit its Facebook page listed under the same label. ***(Walter Cepeda Sutherland)***

Island Apparel-Under The Rim's Ray Lizama goes strong to the basket in last year's MBFNMI 40A playoff game against The House at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.
WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

UFO basketball technical meeting today

The 2011 UFO Basketball Friendship League will have its technical meeting today at 6pm at the Civic Center pavilion in Susupe.

Players and coaches of participating teams in three divisions are asked to attend the meeting, as league organizers will explain rules and regulations in the competition tonight. Teams are also asked to turn over a copy of their 12-player roster and the $500 entrance fee (exclusive of uniforms).

The league will kick off on July 31 at the TSL Sports Complex with competition in the masters, junior, and midget divisions.

The masters division is for 40-and-above age group and has six teams with two more slots available. The junior category for 21 to 39 age group is fully booked with 12 teams, while the midget division (for 15 to 20 age group), has three teams and three berths are yet to be filled.

Once the rosters are in, players must attend a screening on July 15 at 6pm at the same venue and bring a proof of eligibility, such as passport, birth certificate, or driver's license.

Then two days before the league opens shop, a meeting for team managers, coaches, table officials, referees, and UFO officials will take place at 6m at the Civic Center pavilion.

For more information about the UFO caging, contact Bong Malasarte at 287-5525 or bong@malasarte.com, Wilfredo Ching at 287-6046 or boyching@pticom.com, and Paul Madriaga at 287-4501 or madriaga@pticom.com. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

Wang snaps Soriano's streak

Jimmy Wang ended Jerry Soriano's winning run in the VFW Post 3457 9-Ball Tournament.

Wang topped the July 2 tournament, beating Soriano in the finals. Soriano won the last two weekly tournaments sponsored by VFW Post 3457.

A draw in the first round of the seven-player field advanced Wang to the second round where he faced and defeated Taylor Watanabe. Then in the semifinals, Wang collided and prevailed over Eugene Borja to make it to the finals against Soriano.

Soriano claimed his first win over John Mongami, but lost his second match against Borja to drop to the loser's bracket. In the loser's group, Soriano edged Watanabe and then avenge his defeat to Borja to arrange a finals showdown against Wang.

Soriano ruled the June 18 and 15 tournaments with his second victory against Erwin Gomez. A win over Borja in the first round advanced Soriano to the quarterfinals against Simon Kapileo. Kapileo won to march into the semis against Gomez, who prevailed to gain the first finals berth.

Twin wins in the loser's bracket—against Watanabe and Kapileo—kept Soriano's bid for back-to-back victories alive, as he claimed the second finals berth. Soriano completed the come-from-behind win when he stunned the then undefeated Gomez.

The VFW Post 3457 holds the 9-ball competition every Saturday with the weekly winners eventually participating in the Battle of the Champions. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Sapong duplicates PB in 100m run

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

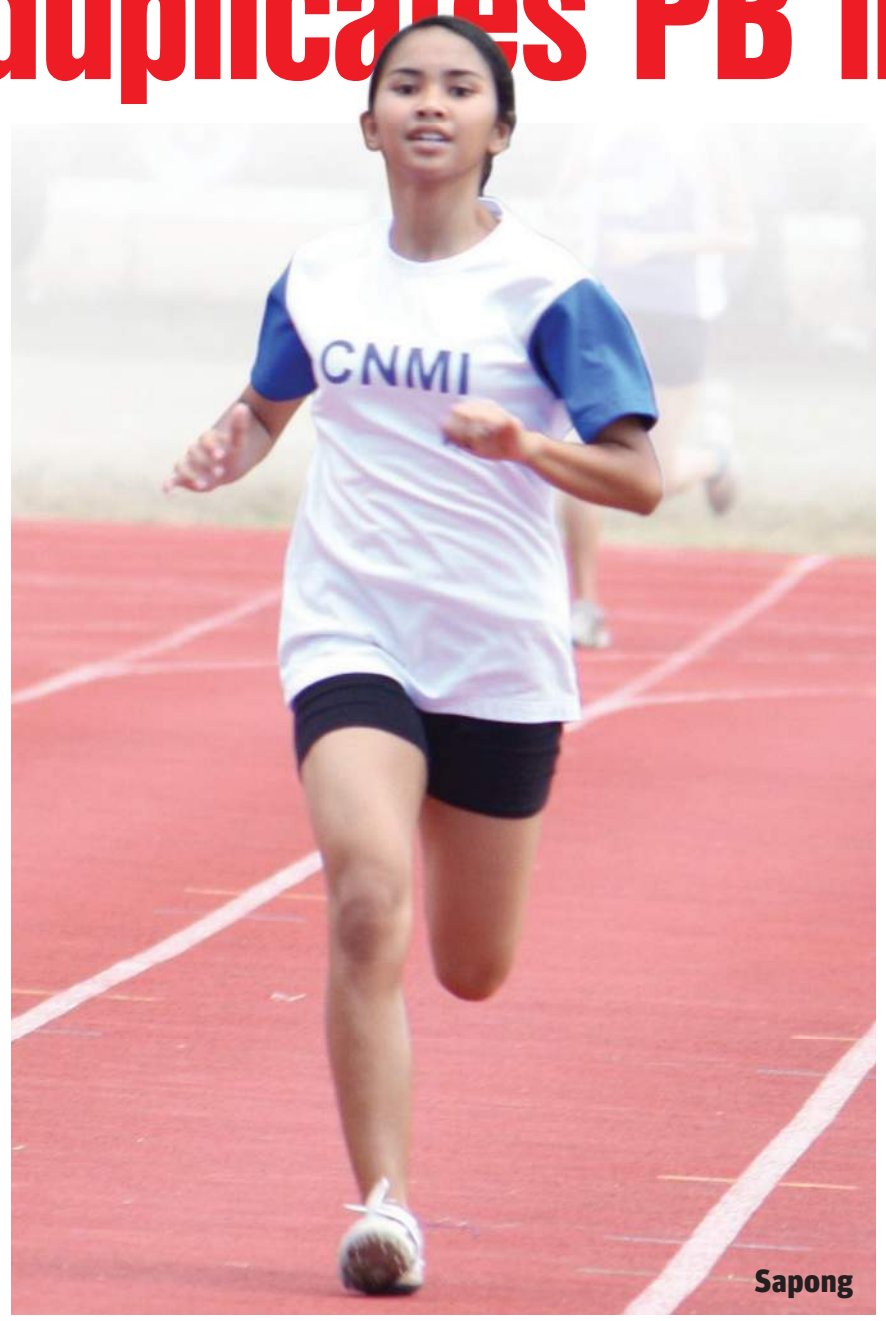
CNMI runner Reylynn Sapong matched her personal best time in the 100m sprint after racing in the 2011 IAAF World Youth Championships yesterday morning in Lille, France.

Sapong clocked in at 14.25 seconds in Day 1 of the five-day competition and it was also listed as her previous PB (electronic time). The 16-year-old runner's PB in hand time in the 100m run was 13.53 seconds made during the McDonald's-PSS All Schools Athletics Championship at the Oleai Sports Complex in May this year.

The CNMI runner was on Heat 8 with seven other runners. Jennifer Madu of the U.S. won the heat with a time of 11.79 seconds and advanced to the semifinals together with Brazil's Julia Schwan (12.04 seconds) and Japan's Yumi Nobayashi (12.11). Thailand's Supawan Thipat (12.37 seconds) came in at fourth, followed by Kazakhstan's Nina Prudnikova (12:54 seconds), Romania's Andreea Grecu (12.74 seconds), Macedonia's Valbona Selimi (13.25 seconds) and Sapong.

Eight qualifying heats were scheduled in the early morning 100m race and 24 made it to the next round. Bulgaria's Galina Nikolova posted the

See SAPONG on Page 34


Sapong

Three-way tie for women's league lead

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Three teams are tied for the lead after the first round of the 2011 BANMI Women's Summer Basketball League was completed last Wednesday at the TSL Sports Complex.

Sharing the top spot in the four-team field are Mix-A-Lot, Aye Par Battayi, and Party Rockers, which hold similar 2-1 slates. The Lazy Buttsss is also entered in the competition, but dropped all its three matches in the first of the three-round robin league.

Mix-A-Lot, which lost its opening game to Aye Par Battayi last week, claimed back-to-back victories, including an upset over the then unbeaten Party Rockers to force a deadlock for the lead.

Mix-A-Lot downed Party Rockers on Wednesday night, 61-51, and topped the Lazy Buttsss in a make-up game last Tuesday, 59-51

Against the CNMI 15 National Team-led Party Rockers, Mix-A-Lot got off to a good start and hung in there to foil the former's bid for a first round sweep.

Lalaine Pagarao, who had 40 points in their win over the Lazy Buttsss, knocked in 10 points in the first half to give Mix-A-Lot a 28-16 advantage at halftime. Nikita Hofschneider and Dion Diaz also contributed for Mix-A-Lot in the first half, firing six apiece.

No Party Rockers player scored more than two field goals in the first half, as coach

See THREE-WAY on Page 34

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Mix-A-Lot's Nikita Hofschneider pulls up for an off-balance shot against Party Rockers' Rachel Abrams, left, and Kaylani Lebria during their game in the BANMI women's league Wednesday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

Major League All-Stars receive private funding

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The CNMI Major League All-Stars resorted to private sponsorships from local businesses after government monies did not arrive on Wednesday as a House session to discuss funding appropriations was canceled.

The team has conducted three coin drives and appeared in the Liberation Day Parade in an effort to acquire additional independent funds.

Parents and other associates of the team wrote numerous donation letters to various private companies to collect funds to help pay for the team's trip to Guam and compete in the 2011 Asia-Pacific Major League Regional Tournament from July 9 to 16 at the Northern Regional Sports Complex.

Of these, P&A Corporation president Hong Kyun Kim and Pacific Amusement's James Gephardt stepped up and offered some timely support.

"I heard about what happened to the team last year and really don't want that to happen again," said Kim yesterday at his office in Afetnas Square.

The Major League All-Stars

See MAJOR on Page 34

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
P&A Corporation president Hong Kyun Kim, left, presents a $500 donation check to CNMI Major League All-Star team dad Dave Cepeda yesterday at Kim's corporate office located in Afetnas Square. Back row from left, all-star catcher Rokie Tenorio, manager Chel Castro, and all-star third baseman Allen Cepeda also posed for the photo.

FIFA World Cup

One of the most exciting international events in the world is the FIFA World Cup. A total of 203 FIFA member associations from all over the globe compete in rigorous matches hoping to make it into the FIFA World Cup finals and eventually win the golden trophy.

The inaugural FIFA World Cup took place 81 years ago in 1930. It was set up by former FIFA president Jules Rimet and was hosted by Uruguay, who also became the first world champions. The competition is played every four years and has been played every four years, except in 1942 and 1946 when it was not held because of World War II.

The first FIFA World Cup Final began with 13 national teams but the format has now expanded to 32 teams, allowing more teams from Africa, Asia, and North America to qualify. In recent years, teams from these regions have enjoyed more success. Before reaching the finals, teams would have to go through their respective confederations qualifier. World Cup qualifying process can start as early as three years before the final tournament and last over a two-year period. Nations compete for 31 spots in the final tournament since the host nation is automatically in.

There have been 19 FIFA World Cup tournaments producing winners from eight different national teams. The most successful nation, Brazil, has won five times and is the only team to have played in every tournament. The other World Cup winners are Italy, with four titles; Germany, with three titles; Argentina and inaugural winners Uruguay, with two titles each; and England, France, and Spain, with one title each. In all, 76 nations have played in at least one World Cup.

The next three World Cups will be hosted by Brazil in 2014, Russia in 2018, and Qatar in 2022.

Source: NMIFA